SATURDAY
February 22, 2025

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 45

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Kerala enters maiden Ranji Trophy final

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Fire breaks out at Chamundi Hills

MYSURU
Chamundi Hills in Mysuru witnessed multiple incidents of fire on Friday, with vast tracts of dry and scrub forest destroyed in the blaze.
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Multi-modal transport integration soon

BENGALURU
General Transit Feed Specification is set to make its entry in Bengaluru in a few months as private players Tummoc and Namma Yatri are ready to integrate public and private transport options in the city. » Page 3

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U.S. election aid allegations 'deeply troubling', says MEA

U.S. DOGE says it cancelled $21 million in USAID funds for 'voter turnout' in India; MEA declines to comment on whether the govt. is reviewing USAID's ongoing partnerships with multiple Ministries

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday said it was investigating "very deeply troubling" allegations made by the U.S. government that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) planned to spend $21 million on funding "voter turnout" in India.

This expenditure has been cancelled by the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) run by billionaire Elon Musk, in a decision shared in a post on X on Monday.

In the Indian government's first reaction to the DOGE post, the Ministry of External Affairs said that different departments are "looking into" the information shared, but declined to comment on whether India would cancel a number of MoUs and agreements on USAID funding made with various Ministries over the past few years, many of which are still current.

Serious concerns

"We have seen information that has been put out by the U.S. administration regarding certain USAID activities and funding," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "These are obviously very deeply troubling. This has led to concerns about foreign interference in India's internal affairs," he added.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

BJP, Congress lock horns over report on USAID money

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday dismissed media reports claiming that the $21-million USAID fund allocation was for Bangladesh, and accused the Congress party of being involved in "anti-India" activities. The Congress claimed that the BJP's narrative was aimed at diverting attention from its own use of foreign funds to destabilise Congress governments in the past.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 15

India, China worked hard to protect G-20: Jaishankar

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and China have "worked hard to preserve" the G-20 organisation, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday during talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In the half-hour-long meeting where they discussed bilateral developments, including the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Mr. Jaishankar pointed out that both countries are "members of the G-20, SCO and BRICS", and had discussed "regional and global" issues.

"We should recognise that in a polarised global situation, our two countries have worked hard to preserve and protect the G-20 as an institution. This in itself testifies to the importance of international cooperation," Mr. Jaishankar told Mr. Wang in his opening remarks of the India-China meeting.

Looking ahead: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Johannesburg. PTI

Going forward

Mr. Jaishankar said that he hoped to take forward talks on bilateral issues, including the "management of peace and tranquillity in the border areas" as had been discussed by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri who have visited Beijing in recent months for talks. "Such gatherings have provided an opportunity for our interaction even when our ties were going through a difficult phase," Mr. Jaishankar said, in a reference to the bilateral tensions over the deadly Galwan clashes in 2020, and China's aggression along the LAC, in a significant indicator the government is putting the tensions in the past tense.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

'10 candidates tampered with OMR sheets to get AEE post'

KPSC SCAM

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The sub-committee constituted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) to look into allegations of malpractices in the examination for the posts of Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the Department of Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation has found major irregularities with respect to 10 candidates who tampered with OMR (Optical Marks Recognition) sheets.

FSL reports sent

The commission submitted the report (a copy of which is available with *The Hindu*) on Thursday to the government with some recommendations, including cancellation of the selection of the 10 tainted candidates. For the first time, the KPSC had sent video clips of exams being held, OMR sheets and carbon copies of OMR sheets given to students to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to verify the allegations. The FSL report has confirmed that the exam was rigged. The KPSC had conducted the written examination for 24 posts of AEE (Grade-1), out of which seven posts were for the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, on July 1 and 2, 2023, and the results were announced on September 1 the same year. The provisional selection list was announced on September 22.

Udyoga Soudha, the KPSC head office, in Bengaluru.

KPSC has submitted a report to the govt. with some recommendations, including cancellation of the selection of these 10 candidates

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Pradhan, Stalin spar over NEP's language provision

The Hindu Bureau
CUDDALORE/NEW DELHI

Hitting out at Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for seeking to "impose Hindi", camouflaging it under the National Education Policy's (NEP 2020) three-language policy, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday declared he would never allow anything detrimental to the State.

"So long as DMK and I, Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin, exist, no activity against Tamil and Tamil Nadu can ever enter this soil," he said at an official function in Cuddalore.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Armies of India, Pakistan hold talks in Jammu amid rising tension along LoC

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

In the wake of growing skirmishes on the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region, the Indian and Pakistani Armies on Friday held a meeting in the Pir Panjal valley's Poonch district in a bid to reduce the heightened tension.

An official said a Brigade-Commander level flag meeting was held between 10.30 and 11 a.m. at the Chakkan-Da-Bagh crossing point in Poonch. The meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, apparently discussed the recent tension on LoC and measures to reduce it. However, no joint statement was issued after the meeting nor the measures discussed were disclosed by the Army.

On alert: The meeting came in the wake of two fresh incidents of explosion and firing on the LoC in Poonch district. FILE PHOTO

'Pushing peace'

Officials said the meeting was aimed at "pushing peace on the LoC and to abide by the commitment made in the 2003 and 2020 ceasefire agreements" between India and Pakistani armies.

"The flag meeting is good, as the aim is to reduce any tensions," Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said.

The meeting came in the wake of two fresh incidents of explosion and firing on the LoC in Poonch district in the past 24 hours. An explosion close to LoC was reported on Friday morning. However, the cause of the explosion was not disclosed immediately by the security officials.

Since 2020, India and Pakistan have been by and large maintaining a ceasefire on the LoC. This year, both Indian and Pakistani armies have accused each other of violating the agreement and resorting to "unprovoked firing".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

‘Crime’ and ‘punishment’: what the Sinner saga tells us about tennis, doping and inequality

The sport is split in its reaction to the circumstances surrounding the World No. 1’s suspension. At the heart of the debate is the perceived opaqueness and favouritism that many players feel the issue reeks of. Is such a strong reaction justified? And can the playing field be levelled?

N. Sudarshan

On February 15, in the immediate aftermath of the announcement of a case resolution agreement between World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and World No. 1 Jannik Sinner that resulted in the latter being banned for three months for two positive tests in March 2024 for the substance clostebol, three-time Major champion Stan Wawrinka put out a blunt statement on social media platform X: “I don’t believe in a clean sport anymore...”

Spaniard Feliciano Lopez, who peaked in singles at No. 12 and is currently the tournament director of the Mutua Madrid Masters 1000, chimed in. “I do Stan,” he said. “It’s very clear he hasn’t done anything to enhance his performance, that’s proven. He’s taking full responsibility for others’ mistake and [serving] three months suspension consequently. Longer suspension would’ve made the sport cleaner? I don’t think so.”

Juxtaposed against former World No. 1 Simona Halep’s travails, it seemed as if Sinner and Swiatek had walked away lightly

Dividing opinion

The split between Wawrinka and Lopez was emblematic of the chasm that has developed in the world of tennis over the matter. At the heart of the debate is the perceived opaqueness and favouritism that many players, 24-time Slam champion Novak Djokovic included, feel the issue reeks of.

What has annoyed the rank and file of the sport is the fact that Sinner’s positive test was not made public until his exoneration in August 2024 by an independent tribunal; that he was allowed to play through this period except for a sum total of six days when he was provisionally suspended, and that WADA, after appealing the verdict and asking for a one-to-two-year ban, settled for just three months.

It has also not helped that women’s World No. 2 and five-time Major winner Iga Swiatek was handed a one-month expulsion in November 2024 for a doping offence. Tennis couldn’t remember the last time two of its biggest stars got entangled in drug-related matters at nearly the same time.

Juxtaposed against former World No. 1 Simona Halep’s travails – provisionally out in Oct. 2022, banned for four years in Sept. 2023, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) reducing it to nine months in March 2024 and her retirement earlier this year – it seemed Sinner and Swiatek had walked away lightly.

The timing of their sanctions has been deemed “convenient”, for Sinner will not miss a single Major. Swiatek missed three events – two WTA 1000s and one 500 – while being provisionally ineligible, but none as big as the WTA Finals and the Billie Jean King Cup Finals that followed.

But is such a strong reaction from the tennis community really justified? For a start, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) protocol that governs the sport’s anti-doping code is pretty clear and there is no disputing that it was followed in all the aforementioned cases. If a prohibited substance is found, a provisional suspension immediately kicks in. But the player can appeal to an independent tribunal (appointed by Sport Resolutions, an independent organisation) within 10 days.

GETTY IMAGES

It is evident that the 10-day appeal period can really make or break a career. Many feel less-resourced players, who cannot assemble a solid legal team in quick time, can have their tennis lives wrecked

If successful, the player’s privacy will be protected and he or she will be allowed to compete while a full-fledged investigation runs parallelly. If the appeal is dismissed, the issue is made public and the player cannot compete until the end of the investigation.

Convincing argument

Sinner was able to convince the tribunal – not once but twice – that he bore “no fault or negligence” and that it was a case of transdermal contamination. Backed by testimonies and a paper trail, Sinner argued that the substance had entered his body while his physio Giacomo Naldi was giving him a massage and that the latter had used an Italian-origin over-the-counter spray containing clostebol – bought by trainer Umberto Ferrera – to treat a cut on his finger.

Sinner attested that neither did he have any knowledge of the spray nor did he know that Naldi had used it. The presence of third parties and the minute amounts of clostebol found in the body – though quantity wouldn’t have mattered if the offence was deliberate – made Sinner’s defence stronger.

Swiatek, too, could convince an independent panel that her ingesting a medication containing trimetazidine was unintentional, but the ITIA felt she was negligent and deserving of a one-month ban. Halep couldn’t argue her case as convincingly and it dragged on, all the way up to the CAS.

It is thus evident that the 10-day appeal period can really make or break a career. Since WADA hasn’t criminalised doping, the standard of proof used is balance of probabilities, where some amount of subjectivity is intrinsic. Many feel less-resourced players, who cannot assemble a solid legal team in quick time, stand to lose out and have their tennis lives wrecked in the process.

It is this lacuna that the Professional Tennis Players Association (PTPA), a brainchild of Djokovic, sought to address in January with the launch of its Athlete Counsel & Equity (ACE) programme that would “provide professional tennis players navigating complex legal challenges with expert pro-bono support through prominent global law firms”. But with the PTPA still resembling a pressure group rather than a players’ union, it remains to be seen what effect it has.

So where does this saga leave Sinner, WADA and tennis? It is unlikely that the reigning Australian and US Open champion’s reputation will be tarnished, for even the fiercest of critics haven’t alleged that the Italian was deliberately at fault.

From Andre Agassi to Martina Hingis to Marin Cilic to Maria Sharapova, none have had their images sullied. Though Sinner’s admission that he was completely responsible for his entourage, perhaps fearing a long sanction by CAS, does point to an acceptance of guilt, however small.

A testing time

But for WADA, it is a testing time. After aggressively contesting the independent tribunal’s “no fault or negligence” clean chit, signing off on an agreement is being seen as a position of weakness. The very word “agreement” has rankled many, leading to accusations that the international watchdog agency was in the business of cutting deals.

However, such agreements have been part of the WADA code since 2021, have been used multiple times and the reduction in penalties depend on the “seriousness of the violation, the degree of fault and how promptly the athlete admitted the violation”. WADA’s quiet climbdown also indicates that, like Sinner, it may have feared an adverse decision at CAS, which would have severely jeopardised its standing.

What makes the whole thing interesting is that in the new WADA code that will come into force starting 2027, the scope of contamination is set to be broadened to include “contact with a third person or object touched by a third person”. In effect, if the Sinner story had played out in 2027, he might not have been banned at all.

As for tennis, the episode is being seen as yet another example of how unequal the playing field is. Brit Tara Moore, whose case went on for 19 months after she did not appeal her provisional sanction in May 2022, had a GoFundMe page to cover her legal expenses. Can a sport that already disincentivises the less-privileged by introducing on-court coaching, allows Slams such as the US Open to unilaterally upend tournament structures like it has done with mixed doubles, afford to be more hierarchical?

STACKING UP

ATP Men’s Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	11,330	16
2	Alexander Zverev	27	8,135	22
3	Carlos Alcaraz	21	7,410	18
4	Taylor Fritz	27	4,900	23
5	Casper Ruud	26	4,480	26
6	Daniil Medvedev	29	3,930	19
7	Novak Djokovic	37	3,900	18
8	Alex de Minaur	26	3,735	23
9	Tommy Paul	27	3,280	20
10	Andrey Rublev	27	3,220	28
11	Stefanos Tsitsipas	26	3,095	23
12	Holger Rune	21	2,970	23
13	Ben Shelton	22	2,930	24
14	Ugo Humbert	26	2,865	25
15	Grigor Dimitrov	33	2,745	17

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 130 ▼ 1 spot

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 416 ▲ 13 spots

WTA Women’s Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	26	8,966	20
2	Iga Swiatek	23	8,160	17
3	Coco Gauff	20	6,538	21
4	Jasmine Paolini	29	5,398	18
5	Jessica Pegula	30	5,076	18
6	Madison Keys	30	4,680	18
7	Elena Rybakina	25	4,153	19
8	Qinwen Zheng	22	3,985	20
9	Emma Navarro	23	3,649	25
10	Paula Badosa	27	3,588	21
11	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,116	24
12	Danielle Collins	31	2,877	17
13	Diana Shnaider	20	2,853	26
14	Mirra Andreeva	17	2,730	18
15	Barbora Krejcikova	29	2,675	16

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 292 ▲ 2 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 301 ▲ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	26	18	7	1	62	26	36	61
2	Arsenal	25	15	8	2	51	22	29	53
3	N. Forest	25	14	5	6	41	29	12	47
4	Man. City	25	13	5	7	52	35	17	44
5	Bournemouth	25	12	7	6	44	29	15	43
6	Chelsea	25	12	7	6	47	34	13	43
7	Newcastle	25	12	5	8	42	33	9	41
8	Fulham	25	10	9	6	38	33	5	39
9	Aston Villa	26	10	9	7	37	40	-3	39
10	Brighton	25	9	10	6	38	38	0	37
11	Brentford	25	10	4	11	43	42	1	34
12	Tottenham	25	9	3	13	49	37	12	30
13	Crystal Palace	25	7	9	9	29	32	-3	30
14	Everton	25	7	9	9	27	31	-4	30
15	Man. United	25	8	5	12	28	35	-7	29
16	West Ham	25	7	6	12	29	47	-18	27
17	Wolves	25	5	4	16	35	54	-19	19
18	Ipswich Town	25	3	8	14	23	50	-27	17
19	Leicester City	25	4	5	16	25	55	-30	17
20	Southampton	25	2	3	20	19	57	-38	9

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	25	17	5	3	41	19	22	56
2	Inter Milan	25	16	6	3	58	24	34	54
3	Atalanta	25	15	6	4	54	26	28	51
4	Juventus	25	11	13	1	42	21	21	46
5	Lazio	25	14	4	7	47	34	13	46
6	Fiorentina	25	12	6	7	41	27	14	42
7	AC Milan	24	11	8	5	36	24	12	41
8	Bologna	24	10	11	3	38	29	9	41
9	Roma	25	10	7	8	36	29	7	37
10	Udinese	25	9	6	10	32	37	-5	33
11	Genoa	25	7	9	9	24	33	-9	30
12	Torino	25	6	10	9	27	31	-4	28
13	Como	25	6	7	12	30	40	-10	25
14	Cagliari	25	6	7	12	26	39	-13	25
15	Lecce	25	6	7	12	18	41	-23	25
16	Verona	25	7	2	16	26	54	-28	23
17	Empoli	25	4	9	12	22	38	-16	21
18	Parma	25	4	8	13	30	45	-15	20
19	Venezia	25	3	7	15	22	41	-19	16
20	Monza	25	2	8	15	21	39	-18	14

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	24	16	3	5	65	25	40	51
2	Real Madrid	24	15	6	3	52	23	29	51
3	Atletico Madrid	24	14	8	2	39	16	23	50
4	Athletic Bilbao	24	12	9	3	37	21	16	45
5	Villarreal	24	11	8	5	47	35	12	41
6	Rayo Vallecano	24	9	8	7	27	25	2	35
7	Real Mallorca	24	10	4	10	23	30	-7	34
8	Real Betis	24	8	8	8	30	31	-1	32
9	Osasuna	24	7	11	6	29	33	-4	32
10	Girona	24	9	4	11	32	35	-3	31
11	Real Sociedad	24	9	4	11	20	23	-3	31
12	Sevilla	24	8	7	9	29	34	-5	31
13	Getafe	24	7	9	8	20	18	2	30
14	Celta Vigo	24	8	5	11	35	38	-3	29
15	Espanyol	24	6	6	12	23	36	-13	24
16	Leganes	24	5	9	10	22	35	-13	24
17	Las Palmas	24	6	5	13	29	41	-12	23
18	Valencia	24	5	8	11	25	38	-13	23
19	Alaves	24	5	7	12	28	38	-10	22
20	Real Valladolid	24	4	3	17	15	52	-37	15

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	22	17	4	1	65	19	46	55
2	Leverkusen	22	13	8	1	49	27	22	47
3	E. Frankfurt	22	12	6	4	49	29	20	42
4	RB Leipzig	22	10	7	5	36	29	7	37
5	SC Freiburg	22	11	3	8	29	36	-7	36
6	Mainz	22	10	5	7	35	24	11	35
7	Stuttgart	22	10	5	7	40	33	7	35
8	M'gladbach	22	10	4	8	35	32	3	34
9	Wolfsburg	22	9	6	7	45	36	9	33
10	Werder Bremen	22	8	6	8	35	42	-7	30
11	Dortmund	22	8	5	9	37	38	-1	29
12	FC Augsburg	22	7	7	8	24	35	-11	28
13	Union Berlin	22	6	6	10	21	29	-8	24
14	St Pauli	22	6	3	13	18	25	-7	21
15	Hoffenheim	22	5	6	11	29	45	-16	21
16	Heidenheim	22	4	2	16	25	45	-20	14
17	Bochum	22	3	5	14	21	46	-25	14
18	Holstein Kiel	22	3	4	15	34	57	-23	13

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	895	932
2	Harry Brook	876	898
3	Kane Williamson	867	919
4	Yashasvi Jaiswal	847	854
5	Steve Smith	823	947
6	Temba Bavuma	769	769
7	Kamindu Mendis	761	779
8	Travis Head	748	884
9	Usman Khawaja	739	847
9	Rishabh Pant	739	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	908	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	837	902
3	Pat Cummins	824	914
4	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
5	Nathan Lyon	812	812
6	Noman Ali	806	806
7	Marco Jansen	785	803
8	Matt Henry	782	782
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	801
10	Ravindra Jadeja	745	899

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	796	847
2	Babar Azam	773	898
3	Rohit Sharma	761	882
4	Heinrich Klaasen	756	757
5	Daryl Mitchell	740	750
6	Virat Kohli	727	909
7	Harry Tector	713	767
8	Charith Asalanka	694	694
9	Shreyas Iyer	679	710
10	Shai Hope	672	802

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Maheesh Theekshana	680	686
2	Rashid Khan	669	799
3	Bernard Scholtz	662	663
4	Kuldeep Yadav	652	760
5	Shaheen Afridi	646	696
6	Keshav Maharaj	642	741
7	Mitchell Santner	639	648
8	Matt Henry	632	691
8	Gudakesh Motie	632	639
10	Mohammed Siraj	624	736

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	856	885
2	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
3	Philip Salt	815	881
4	Tilak Varma	804	845
5	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
6	Jos Buttler	735	756
7	Babar Azam	716	900
8	Pathum Nissanka	714	722
9	Mohammad Rizwan	709	882
10	Kusal Perera	676	786

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Akeal Hosein	707	714
2	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
3	Adil Rashid	705	747
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	700	809
5	Adam Zampa	694	746
6	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
7	Maheesh Theekshana	666	686
8	Rashid Khan	664	828
9	Arshdeep Singh	653	679
10	Jofra Archer	649	668

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J BG-BGE

Three arrested for gang-raping woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police said that the accused worked as cooks and waiters in various hotels

A 35-year-old woman, hailing from Delhi and working as a helper with an event management firm, was allegedly gang-raped by four youths working in the hospitality industry in the wee hours of Friday in Koramangala.

In her complaint, the victim said that she had been to meet one of her friends and around midnight, met four youths who claimed to know her friend.

The accused allegedly took her to the terrace of a hotel which had shut down for the day and allegedly gang-raped her.

The youths later allegedly snatched her mobile, wallet and chased her out of the building.

The victim called the police control room, who rescued the woman and registered a case. In a swift swoop down, Koramangala Police arrested three of the four accused now identified as Ajith, Vishwas, and Shiva, all hailing from West Bengal.

Another accused allegedly from Uttarakhand is still at large and a manhunt is on.

Sarah Fathima, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East Division), Bengaluru City, said, "The backgrounds of the accused and how the victim was trapped by them are under investigation. The accused worked as cooks and waiters in various hotels and not at the hotel where the victim was raped."

10th edition of Racefor7 to be held tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 10th edition of Racefor7, an annual awareness-run organised by the Organisation for Rare Disease India (ORDI), will be held on Sunday. This flagship event aims to raise awareness about rare diseases and bring together over 7,000 participants across 21 cities in India, all running a 7-km course.

The event underscores the need for sustained awareness and policy action to address the challenges faced by people with rare conditions. ORDI calls for active participation and support from rare disease advocates, healthcare leaders, and advocacy groups to bring about a meaningful change in the healthcare landscape for rare disease patients. For more information and registration, interested individuals can visit the official event website at www.registration.racefor7.com.

Entrepreneurs' summit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A three-day national young entrepreneurs' summit, YESUMMIT-2025, organised by the Christ (Deemed to be University), on its Kengeri campus, opened on Thursday.

A total of 450 participants, including 150 pitch teams from across the country, are participating in the summit which brings together aspiring young entrepreneurs, industry experts, and academicians to exchange ideas, explore business innovations, and foster a culture of entrepreneurship.

The event has been organised in association with the YouthAid Foundation, Pune.

The event was inaugurated by Fr. Jossy P. George, Director, Christ Incubation Centre, and N. Nageshwara Rao, Technical Advisor, Karnataka Skill Development Authority.

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By

NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY (BHOPAL), THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA, BIHAR JUDICIAL ACADEMY AND BIHAR INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (BIPARD)

Venue :- Mahabodhi Sanskritik Kendra, Bodhgaya & BIPARD Gaya | Date :- 22nd & 23rd February 2025

PR No.- 019904 (B&C)D. 2024-25

M BG-BGE

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Giant-killer Diya Chitale believes India's table tennis moment will arrive – but it can't be forced

> I think the one thing [Chinese players] have is the same quality, the same intensity from the first point till the end and their basics are very good. When they start, they are two or three and we start when we are seven, eight. So, they already have a five-year advantage

The National women's singles champion thinks it's only a matter of time before the country's paddlers emulate their badminton counterparts and consistently beat the best in the world. 'For sure that day will come,' she says, 'but the more you put pressure on it, the further it goes away'

Stan Rayan

Diya Chitale's parents often went on vacations when she was a little girl. And almost always the place where they stayed had a table tennis table and her family and friends joined in the fun.

That's how Diya got hooked to the ping-pong game. She soon started playing at the Khar Gymkhana club in Mumbai.

Turning point

"I was around eight then and it began as a hobby. I think the turning point came in 2014 when I won the under-12 singles silver at the National Championships and that must have been the moment when I wanted to take the sport seriously," said Diya in a chat with *The Hindu* during the recent National Games in Dehradun.

"That was when my hobby turned into a passion. And then, there was no looking back."

Her parents, and almost all her close relatives, have a strong academic background. Her father is a maths professor and trains students for CAT and GRE.

"Nobody [in our family] is into any kind of sports professionally, I'm the only one, but I think that I'm into it because my family supported me the most, there was never a discussion on whether I should focus just on studies or take up my sport professionally," said the 21-year-old.

"It was always my decision and they always stood by me. No matter what decision I would make, they were always there for me."

> Saina and Sindhu have really changed the way people look at badminton in India. They broke the myth that foreigners are better than us and I think it's definitely possible in table tennis

That paid off. Diya is the current National champion in women's singles. After losing the first two games of the title match in Surat recently, the Mumbai girl bounced back and stunned Olympian Sreeja Akula.

"Sreeja is an amazing player, honestly it was a very good match and a very close match. I think both of us were playing our best and, of course, we both wanted to win very badly...it was 3-3 and 9-all and I knew I would not get any easy points against her, she always fights for it," said Diya.

"I'm really happy that at the crucial situation, I was able to keep my calm and still play my aggressive game. And in the end, I was able to convert that match in my favour."

Winning the National title was not a one-day process, explained Diya, who represents the Reserve Bank of India.

"It's like months and years going into building towards that, but it's a different kind of confidence when you are winning matches. I knew I was playing well for quite some time, but somewhere, in those crucial matches, I was losing, so I really learned to stay in the game for each and every point and that was something I was able to execute throughout," she said.

"I think I was really confident throughout the Nationals and was able to execute everything my coach Sachin Shetty and I had worked out."

Incidentally, Diya is currently the World No. 110 while Sreeja is on the 29th rung in the global rankings, just a step below Manika Batra.

Making a splash

Four months earlier, Diya, playing for Dabang Delhi, had upset Manika, representing PBG Bengaluru Smashers, 3-0 in the Ultimate Table Tennis league in Chennai.

She was a sort of giant-killer at the UTT, pulling off surprise wins over Ayhika Mukherjee and Yashaswini Ghorpade, both listed higher than her in the world rankings. Shortly after that, Diya was in the Indian team that jolted Paris Olympics bronze medallist South Korea and won its first-ever bronze in the women's team event of the Asian Championships in Kazakhstan.

Around this time last year, the Indian women had created a sensation when World No. 155 Ayhika stunned China's World No. 1 Sun Yingsha while Sreeja surprised the then World No. 2 Wang Yidi at the World Team Championships in Busan. India went on to lose to China 2-3 in that group match, but it must have raised the confidence of female paddlers across the country.

That could well go down as a defining moment in Indian women's table tennis, especially if it can inspire a revolution such as the one witnessed in badminton when stars like Saina Nehwal and P.V. Sindhu began beating Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese players and went on to win Olympic medals.

Does Diya see a possibility of that happening in table tennis?

"Saina and Sindhu have really changed the way people look at badminton in India. They broke the myth that foreigners are better than us and I think it's definitely possible in table tennis," said Diya, who was a member of the Indian team at the last Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

"There has been a huge, huge rise ever since the 2018 Commonwealth Games [where Manika became the first Indian woman to win the singles gold] and I think many players now are doing so well. Sharath, Sathiyan, Manika, Sreeja, they are all doing really very well, so I think we are there, it's just more of the mental shift we need that we can also beat them and we will get there soon."

But she also sounded a warning.

The work never ceases

"Everyone is waiting for that day but I think the more you put pressure on it, thinking I hope it comes now, I hope it comes now, the further it goes away. So you never know when that big break is coming, but I just believe that if you keep working hard, for sure that day will come," said Diya, whose next target is to crack into the world's top 75, with medals at the World Championships and Olympics being the long-term goals.

What makes the Chinese players so special, what separates them from the Indians?

"When I watch them, I think the one thing they have is the same quality, the same intensity from the first point till the end and their basics are really very good. When they start, they are two or three and we start when we are seven, eight. So, they already have a five-year advantage," said Diya.

"And I think from the start, they have very sound technique, they have very good basics."

A bright student who scored 93% in her class 10 boards, it's clear Diya has been quietly taking notes on some of the world's top players, biding her time and waiting for India's big day.

GAME THEORY

Life in the electric lane: Formula E's most successful drivers

SEBASTIEN BUEMI

JEAN-ERIC VERGNE

LUCAS DI GRASSI

MITCH EVANS

After four rounds of the 2024-25 season of Formula E, Oliver Rowland leads the drivers' standings, with defending champion Pascal Wehrlein in eighth. The young championship, which is in its 11th season, has seen nine drivers win the world title. We take a look at the champions by season and the drivers with the most race wins :

CHAMPIONS BY SEASON

Season	Driver	Team	Race wins
2014–15	Nelson Piquet Jr.	China Racing / NEXTEV TCR	2
2015–16	Sebastien Buemi	Renault e.dams	3
2016–17	Lucas di Grassi	Abt Schaeffler Audi Sport	2
2017–18	Jean-Eric Vergne	Techeetah	4
2018–19	Jean-Eric Vergne	DS Techeetah	3
2019–20	Antonio Felix da Costa	DS Techeetah	3
2020–21	Nyck de Vries	Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team	2
2021–22	Stoffel Vandoorne	Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team	1
2022–23	Jake Dennis	Avalanche Andretti Formula E	2
2023–24	Pascal Wehrlein	TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team	3

MOST RACE WINS (OVERALL)

Driver	Entries	Wins
Sebastien Buemi	132	13
Lucas di Grassi	136	13
Mitch Evans	115	13
Sam Bird	132	12
Antonio Felix da Costa	132	12
Jean-Eric Vergne	134	11

MOST RACE WINS IN A SEASON

Driver	Seasons	Wins
Sebastien Buemi	2016/17	6
Jean-Eric Vergne	2017/18	4
Mitch Evans	2021/22	4
Edoardo Mortara	2021/22	4
Mitch Evans	2022/23	4
Nick Cassidy	2022/23	4
Antonio Felix da Costa	2023/24	4

SOURCE: FORMULA E

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Sport and life

This image, which has been converted to atmospheric black and white, portrays action from the recent Piha Invitational Surf Lifesaving finals at Auckland.

Surf lifesaving, which originated on Australian beaches in the early 20th century, has two components to it: voluntary lifeguard services and competitive sport.

The sporting aspect evolved from the training activities of lifesavers — and was primarily designed to improve the fundamental physical and mental skills required to save lives in aquatic environments.

The sports events — some contested by individuals, others by teams — include surf swimming, board riding, sand running, mock rescues using rowed surf boats, and paddling special kayak-like surf skis.

There is also a surf lifesaving version of Ironman, which combines four events in one gruelling race.

Surf lifesaving is extremely popular in Australia and New Zealand, where scenes such as the one in this photograph from Piha beach on Auckland's rugged, scenic west coast are common. Interest in the sport has also picked up in Canada and certain parts of Europe.

Multi-modal transport integration soon

Commuters will be able to travel in an auto (for first and last-mile connectivity), bus, or metro with a single QR code on their phones

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) is set to make its entry in the city in a few months as private players Tummoc and Namma Yatri are ready to integrate public and private transport options in the city.

This will be made possible with the help of open data that will be provided by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL). Once this is operational, commuters will be able to travel in an autorickshaw (for first and last-mile connectivity), or a bus or metro train, all with the help of a single QR code in their smartphones.

Visitors at the exhibition at 'Namma Raste' on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

On the second day of Namma Raste, the mobility event organised by BBMP in association with the World Resources Institute (WRI), various private players in the mobility sector discussed the benefits of Open Data in transportation.

"To enable any multi-modal service in a city, the fundamental requirements are open data and integrated ticketing. Public transport is not going to reach every household and hence we have to amalgamate public and private transport," said Hiranmay Mallick, CEO, Tummoc.

Rajiv Ravindra, director, CX and Growth, Namma Yatri said, "The first and last mile connectivity is where Namma Yatri comes in. We have to figure out how open data can help a driver make himself more available (for rides) and increase acceptance rate."

The WRI, in association with others, initiated a project in October last year to bring out data from public transport agencies BMTC and BMRCL in the form of open data to help innovators be more creative with their mobility solutions.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajaneesh said: "Even if a citizen wants to use public transport, there is a problem of last-mile connectivity. This can be solved by arranging electric vehicles and shared transport in collaboration with private organisations to provide public transport connectivity."

MLA Rizwan Arshad said: "We need to prioritise ease of living over ease of doing business."

App to navigate the city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Similar to the multi-modal transport plan, OneTAC, a platform that helps people to experience different events in the city with ease, is being developed by tech innovators.

Malini Goyal, CEO of Unboxing BLR and OneTAC, said: "Through OneTAC, we want to give a more connected and integrated view of the physicality of the city."

From booking public transportation options to planning itineraries that will cater to an individual's interests, this platform is expected to be a one-stop solution.

Traffic diversion on Silk Board flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have announced that the Silk Board flyover will be partially closed for traffic from Friday evening to Saturday evening due to repair work taken up by BMRCL.

The flyover will be closed for traffic from Ibblur towards Silk Board, as BMRCL is taking up work related to the sliding of a girder at 14th Main, HSR Layout.

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Travel operators' association backs tunnel road project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The project was proposed by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the portfolio of Bengaluru Development

At a time when voices against the controversial tunnel road project are growing, the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to implement the project to alleviate traffic congestion in the city.

The ambitious project was proposed by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar and the process is under way to invite tender for securing loan for the same.

During a pre-Budget discussion with Mr. Siddaramaiah, the president of KSTOA, K. Radhakrishna Holla pressed for the project arguing that in the next 10 years, the volume of traffic in the city will grow exponentially and after about 10-15 years, such a project cannot materialise.

This demand comes at a time when many people are mobilising support against the project under a recently constituted Bengaluru Town Hall forum.

Mr. Holla talking to *The Hindu* said earlier, industrialists who were traveling to Bengaluru to attend a meeting could finish multiple deliberations scheduled at different locations in a day. But now it takes at least three days as they cannot travel in time between locations in a single day owing to traffic congestion. "This is bad for private operators too. The tunnel road is the need of the hour to reduce congestion in the city. This was conveyed to Mr. Siddaramaiah during the meeting," he said.

Reduce road tax

Mr. Holla has urged the government to review the road tax structure under the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Taxation Act 1957 and align it with neighbouring States'.

As Karnataka's road tax costs are significantly higher, this has led many tourist vehicle operators (maxi cabs, luxury taxis, cars, SUVS,) to register their vehicles in States like Diu and Daman, Goa, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh and others where the All India Tourist Permit is much more affordable.

KSTOA has proposed adopting a "One Nation One Road Tax" policy and reducing GST for tourist vehicles to promote eco-friendly alternatives and support local operators. These measures, they argue, would boost Karnataka's tourism and transport sectors while ensuring fair competition and revenue retention.

The association also emphasised the need for timely completion of wayside amenities, and development of multi-storey parking facilities in commercial areas.

Deadline for fixing HSRP extended till March 31

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

HSRPs are must for vehicles registered before April 1, 2019.

The Transport Department has again extended the deadline for vehicle owners to fix High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs), pushing it to March 31. This marks the seventh extension since the mandate was introduced.

HSRPs are compulsory for vehicles registered before April 1, 2019. They are designed to enhance security and prevent misuse, as they feature tamper-proof locks that break upon removal. Each plate is embedded with a unique 10-digit number that is linked to the vehicle's chassis and engine details and stored in a central database.

A Transport Department official said HSRP plates maintain a standardised format, incorporating a blue 'chakra' emblem on the left. The background colour varies depending on the vehicle category – white with black numerals for private vehicles and yellow with black numerals for commercial ones. To ensure authenticity, the word 'INDIA' is hot-stamped onto the plate.

For four-wheelers and two-wheelers, two plates are fixed, one at the front and the other at the rear. For four-wheelers, additionally, a sticker displaying the registration number and the HSRP number is fixed on the windshield.

Three-member committee to resolve disputes over new Cauvery connections

The BWSSB will also introduce a model calculator on its website, which will help communities to get a rough estimate of the charges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has announced that a three-member committee led by the Chief Engineer will be formed to address complaints related to charges residents must pay to get new Cauvery V Stage connections.

A file photo of the cascade aerator at the water purification plant set up as part of the Cauvery Water Supply Scheme at Thorekadanahalli near Malavalli in Mandya district.

Model calculator
The Board will also introduce a model calculator on its website, which will help communities to get a rough estimate of the charges they will have to pay to get new connections.

The announcements came after BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar met with Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) over reported issues with availing new connections under Cauvery V Stage and representatives flagged issues of how the charges were being calculated.

Confusion over fees
Emphasising the need for streamlining the application process and its follow-up, Mr. Manohar said steps were being taken to clear confusion over the fees for apartment water connections. "The three-member committee will thoroughly review complaints and provide timely resolutions. Our goal is to offer transparent solutions, eliminating unnecessary delays and excessive charges through this committee," Mr. Manohar said.

When asked for a guarantee on the minimum quantum of water the Board will supply, Mr. Manohar said that accounting for the mandate for apartment residents to use treated water for non-potable purposes and assuming the size of a family of three, the Board would supply at least 200 litres of potable water per household everyday. The exact quantity may vary depending on the population of each apartment complex, BWSSB said. "Our objective is to ensure that every household receives the required amount of water without hassle," Dr. Manohar assured.

Man stabbed to death while resisting robbery attempt

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A garment employee who was sleeping at the Kempegowda Bus Station was allegedly stabbed to death while reportedly resisting a robbery bid on Thursday night. The victim Chandra, 45, hailing from Mysuru, worked at a garment factory in the city. . According to the police, two people allegedly tried to snatch his mobile phone from his pant pocket. When Chandra tried to resist the robbery, the duo allegedly stabbed him multiple times and fled, the police said. Upparpet Police have registered a case of murder and are trying to identify the accused through CCTV camera footage.

Nigerian national dies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Nigerian national was killed following a row in Bellahalli recently. The police have arrested Yasin Khan, working at a chicken shop for murder. An argument broke out and the accused allegedly hit the victim, Adiyako Masaliyo who tried to run, fell on a stone and died, the police said.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, FEB. 22	
RISE 06:39	SET 18:27
RISE 01:37	SET 13:03
SUNDAY, FEB. 23	
RISE 06:38	SET 18:27
RISE 02:32	SET 13:59
MONDAY, FEB. 24	
RISE 06:38	SET 18:27
RISE 03:28	SET 14:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	34	17
Bengaluru	33	19

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Couple arrested for job visa fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The City police have arrested a couple, residents of Tilak Nagar, for cheating over 50 people promising to get them work visasfor a price. The police have recovered ₹80 lakh worth valuables including ₹66 lakh cash from the accused.

According to the complainant, he came across an advertisement on Facebook claiming to provide work visas for peopleand contacted them for two of his friends.

The couple collected ₹8 lakh per visa and delivered on the promise. Following this, he collected money from several of his contactsand paid a total of ₹2.64 crore. However, this time they did not deliver. Instead, they sent forged visa documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to general public that our Clients i) Sri. Rohit Kumar Tiiwari, ii) Smt. Alpana Jodhani, iii) Smt. M. Gnana Prasuna & iv) Smt. M.S. Shantha Kala, are intending to purchase the Schedule property from (i) Sri. A. Joseph, S/o. Late Arokyswamy, R/at No.23, 20th Cross, 1st main, Kanakapura, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 032 and his family members, along with (ii) Mrs. Anu Zafrulla, W/o. Zafrulla Khan, R/at: No. 16, 14th Cross, Govindapura, Nagawara, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru – 560 045 and (iii) Sri. Somashekar K., S/o Late Krishnappa G., R/at: No. 189, Sannidhi Nilaya, Near Narayana School, Chowdeshwari Layout, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru – 560 092.

Any person having right, claim or title over the Schedule property may notify with documentary proof, either to us or to our clients within FIFTEEN DAYS, failing which our Clients assume that there are no claims, whatsoever and thereafterwards our Clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule property.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

E-Tender Notice No: BE-TLAC-PC-CUMMINS-2025-2 Dated : 15.02.2025

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG / HOG mode of Bengaluru Division fitted with DA sets of Cummins make for a period of one year.	Rs. 7,24,42,607.25

E-Tender Notice No: BE-TLAC-PC-GREAVES-2025-2 Dated : 15.02.2025

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG / HOG mode of Bengaluru Division fitted with DA sets of Greaves make for a period of one year.	Rs. 4,06,80,376.46

E-Tender Notice No: BE-TLAC-PC-KOEL-2025-2 Dated : 15.02.2025

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Maintenance, Escorting and operation of Power car in EOG / HOG mode of Bengaluru Division fitted with DA sets of Kirloskar (KOEL) make for a period of one year.	Rs. 1,20,30,084.81

Tender Closing Date & Time : **08-03-2025 upto 13:00 Hrs.**
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NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB No.: GRDA/YOJ/INFRA/04/2024-02, Date: 20.02.2025
National Competitive Bidding
BID NOTICE

1.	Name of the Work	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGNS & PREPARATION OF DPR OF ROAD WITH PROVISIONING OF ALL ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURES SERVICES (WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, GAS PIPELINE, ELECTRIFICATION & ELECTRIC CABLE LINES, TELECOMMUNICATION ETC.) IN CORE CAPITAL AREA OF JHARKHAND AT SITE -I, HEC AREA RANCHI.
2.	Mode of submission of bids	Online Bidding (two bid system)
3.	Bid Fee (through online)	Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 10,000/- *(Rupees Ten Thousand only (Non-refundable)*
4.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In INR) (through online)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) – Rs 2,00,000/- *(Rs. Two Lakh) only*
5.	Performance Guarantee	5% (in form of Bank Guarantee) 5% (as retention money from each running bill)
6.	Period of consultancy	**Error! Reference source not found.**
7.	Date of starting of sale of online Bid/Document Download	22.02.2025 at 13:00 Hrs.
8.	Date of Start of Submission of online Bids	22.02.2025 at 13:00 Hrs.
9.	Pre-Bid meeting	05.03.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.
10.	Last Date for submission of Pre-Bid Queries	04.03.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.
11.	Last Date/Time for submission of online bids	17.03.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
12.	Date of Tech. Bid Opening	18.03.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
13.	Date of Presentation	To be intimated
14.	Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be intimated
15.	Office address	Greater Ranchi Development Agency Ltd, 3rd Floor, Room No. 303, Yojna Bhawan, Nepal House Complex, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002. e-mail: project.grda@gmail.com
16	Helpline no.	+ 91 651 2491068/2491084

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
The undersigned, on behalf of President of India, invites Bidders to participate in E-Auctions for contracts as scheduled below.

Sl.	E-Auction Catalogue No.	Category/Sub-Category	Date & Time of E-Auctioning
1	MYS-MS-TSA-166	Misc./Textile Store with Advertisements	28-02-2025 15:00 Hrs.
2	MYS-AD-OHD-167	Advertising/Out Of Home/Digital Hoardings	04-03-2025 15:00 Hrs.
3	MYS-AD-OHZ-168	Advertising/Out Of Home/Mysuru Zones Hoardings	05-03-2025 15:00 Hrs.
4	MYS-AD-OOH-169	Advertising/Out Of Home/37 Stations	06-03-2025 10:00 Hrs.
5	MYS-MPS-2025-3	Multi Purpose Stalls/10 units	06-03-2025 11:00 Hrs.
6	MYS-CATG-2025-2	Catering/42 units	06-03-2025 11:00 Hrs.
7	MYS-SLR-11036	Parcel/SLR/3 units	06-03-2025 15:00 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/807/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR sw_railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to **15.00 hours on 18.03.2025** as below:- **Tender No.** : 207 **Name of work with its Location** : Construction of RCC boundary wall to safeguard track and as well as to avoid encroachments in the jurisdiction of ADEN/BNW. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 37107524.47 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 335500.00 **Tender No.** : 208 **Name of work with its Location** : Construction of RCC boundary wall to safeguard track and as well as to avoid encroachments under ADEN/SSA. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 46095654.89 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 380500.00 **Tender No.** : 209 **Name of work with its Location** : Provision of boundary wall at various location of Bikaner division under ADEN/SSA. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 13433365.47 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 217200.00 **Tender No.** : 213 **Name of work with its Location** : Provision of 225 KL OH Tank & allied works in lieu of old steel tank at Sirsa station under ADEN/Sirsa. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 6727183.92 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 134600.00 **Tender No.** : 214 **Name of work with its Location** : Improvement of Hisar Railway Colony by widening & resurfacing and Improvement of Sewage System & Development of Rain water Harvesting system in Hisar Railway Colony. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 16909995.93 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 234600.00 **Note**- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in.
215-DR/25
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI – 834010.
(CIN – U855100JH2013SGC001276)E-mail:jmhidpc2014@gmail.com
Website: https://jmhidpcl.jharkhand.gov.in/
GST NO: 20AADCJ4293L2ZH, PAN NO: AADCJ4293L

Bid Ref. No. JMC/NIT-25/MRI-CT/06 **Date: 21.02.2025**

Selection of Agency for Supply, Installation and Commissioning and operation & maintenance of MRI 3.0 Tesla and CT Scan 256 Slices for selected location in Jharkhand on Trunkey Basis for 10 Years

The **(JMHIDPCL), Ranchi** hereby invites separate **Technical Bid** and **Financial Bid** (two envelope system) through e-procurement from eligible Manufacturer/ their Authorized Dealer /Distributors/ Authorized Stockiest for health facilities of the State of Jharkhand.
The Bid documents with detailed conditions can be viewed and downloaded through website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible Bidder(s) willing to participate must be registered in e-procurement portal.

Particulars	Date & Time
Date of Publication on e-Portal	24-02-2025
Bid Submission Start Date	12-03-2025
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	18-03-2025 05:00 PM
Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposal	19-03-2025 05:00 PM
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 1,000,00,00/- (One crore through Online payment Gateway)
Contact/ Helpline No. of E-Procurement Cell	+91-8709368893/9471180967
Pre-bid meeting Date & Time	28-02-2025 at 01:00 PM

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays. In the event of any of the dates being declared as a holiday for the office of the JMHIDPCL, the Bids will be opened on the next working day at the appointed time. JMHIDPCL reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Bid document including quantity/ number of items to be supplied or to reject any or all Bids without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHIDPCL in this regard shall be final.
Sd/-
PR 346945 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(24-25).D **Managing Director. JMHIDPCL.**

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India.)
Opp. Wadi Police Station. Amravati Road, Wadi Nagpur- 440 023.
www. jnarddc.gov.in

भर्ती सूचना / RECRUITMENT NOTICE Advt. No. 46/2025 (February 2025)

JNARDDC, Nagpur a "Centre of Excellence" for research in the field of bauxite, alumina & aluminium invites applications from Indian nationals for the following contractual posts for Non-ferrous Metals - **Recycling Division.**

Designation & Monthly Fixed Remuneration	Essential and Desirable Qualifications and Experience with age limit
Contractual Scientist III-A **2 (Two) Posts** **Rs. 1,45,000**	**i) Qualifications & Experience** **Essential:** (a) 1st Class (60%) BE / ME or equivalent in (Metallurgy / Chemical / Mechanical / Material Science) (b) 15 years relevant experience in non-ferrous metal industry including recycling **Desirable:** a) Consultancy, marketing and promotion in Non-Ferrous Metal Sector (b) Candidates having work experience of at least 20 years in Non-ferrous Metal Recycling Industry (c) Candidates must have good communication skills and good MS office skills **ii) Age limit:** Maximum – 50 years
Contractual Scientist III-B **2 (Two) Posts** **Rs. 1,45,000**	**i) Qualifications & Experience** **Essential:** (a) Graduation (b) 15 years relevant experience in non-ferrous metal industry including recycling **Desirable:** a) Consultancy, marketing and promotion in Non-Ferrous Metal Sector (b) Candidates having work experience of at least 20 years in Non-ferrous Metal Recycling Industry (c) Candidates must have good communication skills and good MS office skills **ii) Age limit: Maximum 50 years**
Contractual Scientist II **3 (Three) Posts** **Rs. 1,20,000**	**i) Qualifications & Experience** **Essential:** a) 1st Class (60%) BE / ME or equivalent in (Metallurgy / Chemical / Mechanical / Material Science) (b) 4 years relevant experience in non-ferrous metal industry including recycling. **Desirable:** c) Candidates must have good communication skills and good MS office skills (d) Experience of Consultancy, marketing and promotion in Non-ferrous Metal Sector **ii) Age limit: Maximum – 45 years**
Contractual Scientist I **1 (One) post** **Rs.1,00,000**	**i) Qualifications & Experience** **Essential:** a) 1st Class (60%) BE / ME or equivalent in (CSE / IT) (b) 2 years relevant experience in IT industry. **Desirable:** a) Candidates having work experience of at least 1 year in Non-ferrous Metal Recycling Industry (b) Candidates must have good communication skills (c) Work Experience of /development and maintenance of website / Network **ii) Age limit : Maximum 35 years**

Online applications have to submitted. Hard copy of application will not be accepted. Detailed terms and conditions are available in the Centre's website **www.jnarddc.gov.in** under the sub-head Career. Application fees is Rs.500/- for everyone. The last date for submission of online applications is 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in Employment News.
Senior Administration Officer

केनरा बैंक **Canara Bank**
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 14.03.2025
Last date of EMD : 13.03.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080 25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 14.03.2025 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM)** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920** during office hours on any working day.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **13.03.2025 - 5.00 pm**
(₹. in lakhs)

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable/movable assets:	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1.	**1. M/s Imperial Constrafin Pvt Ltd** **2. Mr. Zabulon Athisayam** S/o Maharaja Nadar Asirvadham **3. Mrs. Zabulon Devapouse Christibai** W/o Zabulon Athisayam **Both are residing at:** No. 134, 3rd Cross, Dollars Colony JP Nagar, 4th Phase, Bengaluru-560078.	Vacant Land at No.36, Sy. No. 20/3, Uttarahalli, Manavarte, Kaval Village, Bangalore-560062. Type of Property Vacant Land, Total extant of the Site 175.46 Sq.mtr, Owner of the Property: M/s. Imperial Constrafin Pvt Ltd represented by Mr. Zabulon Athisayam, Boundaries of the property : East: Road, West: Private Property, North: Site No. 35 Vacant, South: Private Property, **Coordinates of the property: Latitude- 12.858223, Longitude- 77.535743**	**Rs. 328855709.14/- as on 19.02.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.** **Symbolic Possession**	a) ₹. 144.00 b) ₹. 14.40 c) ₹.1.00	06.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer
2.	**1) M/s Bangalore Consultants-Contractors,** No.14/14, 59th Cross, 5th Block, Bhashyam Circle, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010, **2) Mr. Prakash K P,** **3) Mrs. Latha Prakash** W/o Prakash K P, **Both are residing at:** No. 364A, 1st Floor, 5th Main, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079.	Flat No. 1, Ground floor, Balaji Enclave – 2, No. 120/204, 5th Main road, Ravi Kirloskar Layout, Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore – 560072 measuring 1500 Sft. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-13.0535297N, Longitude-77.4839286E**	**Rs. 97571592.23/- as on 19.02.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.** **Symbolic Possession**	a) ₹. 52.00 b) ₹. 5.20 c) ₹.1.00	07.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer
		Flat No. 2, first floor, Balaji Enclave-2, No. 120/204, 5th Main Road, Ravi Kirloskar Layout, Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore-560072, measuring 1500 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-13.0535297N, Longitude-77.4839286E**		a) ₹. 52.00 b) ₹. 5.20 c) ₹.1.00	
		Flat No. 4, Third floor, Balaji Enclave-2, No. 120/204, 5th Main Road, Ravi Kirloskar Layout, Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore – 560072, measuring 1500 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-13.0535297N, Longitude-77.4839286E**		a) ₹. 52.00 b) ₹. 5.20 c) ₹.1.00	
		All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No.401, 4th Floor, Balaji Enclave-3, on property bearing Municipal No.34, PID No.100-760-34, situated at RMV 2nd Stage, 4th Block, Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore-560094. Earlier BDA site No.34, 4th Block, Lottegollahalli, 2nd stage, RMV, Bangalore-560094. Measuring 1700 Sq.ft, Super built up area including proportionate common areas and facilities with 500 Sq.ft of undivided share and one covered car parking area with all amenities, facilities and lefty the Basement. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-12.9085832N, Longitude-77.5504773E**		a) ₹. 133.00 b) ₹. 13.30 c) ₹.1.00	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.
Date : 20.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I HITHERTO known as Abdul Haq S/O Karigar Abdul Wasay residing at H No.1–949/61/1/44 Rahmat Nagar Old Jewargi Road KALABURAGI KARNATAKA–585102 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohammad Abdulhaq Karigar.It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Usha Sivadasan D/O, Nandan Nair R/o Flat No-402, Icon Lxuria, Bileshivale, Avalahalli Main Road, Bangalore, Pin 560077 have changed my name to Usha K.

I, FHAMIDA Banu W/o Zakir Hussain residing at No.571, 1st Cross, 4th Block, Near Noorani Masjid, HBR Layout, Hennur, Bengaluru-560043 Karnataka have changed my name to Fahmida Banu vide affidavit dated 21-02-2025 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

INVEST MADHYA PRADESH
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT

24 25 February 2025, Bhopal

Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

MADHYA PRADESH
The Heartland of Infinite Possibilities

THE INVESTOR'S PARADISE - Seamless Business Growth Awaits

Madhya Pradesh has consistently demonstrated leadership in enhancing its Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) ecosystem. Recognized for its progressive reforms and efficient governance, the state has been ranked among the 'Top Achievers' in the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2022 rankings. These initiatives underscore Madhya Pradesh's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment.

Key Achievements

- **Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2024**
- Madhya Pradesh is the first State in the country to introduce the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2024.
- The Bill decriminalizes 64 provisions across 8 State Acts administered by 5 departments.
- It aims to further enhance Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business in the state.

Reducing Compliance Burden

- **Streamlining Regulations: Reduced 2,483 compliances across 37 departments.**
- **Legal Reforms:** Repealed 920 outdated Acts and decriminalized 67 provisions, ensuring a simplified regulatory framework.

Facilitating Business Operations

- **Industry Approvals:** Granted exemptions to over 340 industries from 22 approvals/inspections for three years under the Madhya Pradesh Udyogon Ki Sthapna Evam Parichalan Ka Saralikaran Adhiniyam 2023.
- **Deemed Approvals:** Processed 11 lakh+ applications within 30 days, with 20,000+ applications deemed approved under the Start Your Business in 30 Days initiative.
- **Geoportal for Infrastructure Planning:** The state's Geospatial Gateway provides 250+ GIS layers, satellite imagery, and tools for sectors like Environment, Agriculture, and Disaster Management, enabling efficient infrastructure planning and gap analysis.
- **Regional Industry Conclave:** Launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Regional Industry Conclaves (RIC) showcase the state's regional industrial potential, attracting investors and promoting holistic development.
- **Cyber Tehsil:** Enables paperless, online land mutation and record correction across all 55 districts, streamlining revenue services with over 18.95 lakh cases resolved via the Revenue Case Management System (RCMS).
- **Labour Case management System:** Madhya Pradesh is the first State in the country to implement 'Labour Case Management System' in the country for resolution of labour related disputes.

Land Allotment Reforms

- **Time Optimization:** Reduced the land allotment process timeline from 59 to 29 days, introducing a deemed approval mechanism for issuing Letters of Intent (LOI) and Letters of Allotment (LOA).
- **Achievements:** Allocated 1,900+ industrial plots under the reformed process.
- **Dedicated Single Window System**
- Operates a robust Single Window System offering 54 services across 13 departments, facilitating seamless approvals and clearances.
- Integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS) and India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), aligning with national frameworks and enhancing accessibility for investors.

The ecosystem, industry friendly policies and support from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has been incredible. We will be opening our new plant in the state this year.

Mr. Vipul Mathur
Managing Director & CEO,
Welspun Corp

Madhya Pradesh is located in the centre of the country. The National Corridors are greatly positioned for the logistics and the future. Not only in Mining and Agriculture but the state has great incentives in the manufacturing sector. Now automotive-related Japanese companies and other manufacturing companies are investing in Madhya Pradesh, which will be a great positive trend and development of the state. And I congratulate the Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav for the initiatives and his leadership.

Mr. Hideki Sho
Director General
JETRO

The State not only has locational advantages, but also possesses a robust industrial ecosystem, excellent infrastructure and an educated workforce, all of which have propelled its economic growth. MP Birla Group's largest investment is in Madhya Pradesh and, in the next 3-4 years, the Group plans to invest an additional 23,500 Cr.

Mr. Sandip Ghose
Managing Director & CEO
MP Birla Group

Narmadapuram presents a unique opportunity for industrial growth, particularly in the textile and manufacturing sectors. With Trident Group's experience and expertise, we are excited to contribute to the region's development. By investing in sustainable practices, improving infrastructure and creating jobs, we aim to help Narmadapuram become a leading hub for textile production and industrial innovation in India. I am deeply grateful for the support I've received here, especially from CM Sir. The opportunities and encouragement provided by this state are unmatched. The initiative is truly groundbreaking.

Mr. Rajinder Gupta
Chairman
Trident Group

Our journey in Madhya Pradesh began in 1998 and, it has been a privilege to witness and contribute to the state's remarkable growth. Our investment of ₹2000 crore and the creation of 2700 jobs are a testament to our commitment to the State. I would like to thank the Government and the people of Madhya Pradesh for their unwavering support, uninterrupted power supply, tax exemptions, that has strengthened our deep connections and relationship with the state. The strategic location of Madhya Pradesh, with its industrial corridors and access to major ports, has been a significant advantage for us. The recent developments in airport infrastructure and Indore's recognition as the cleanest city in India further highlight the state's progress

Mr. Hiroshi Yoshizane
Managing Director
Bridgestone India Pvt. Ltd.

As the CEO of Netlink, I'm excited about Narmadapuram's potential for technology and infrastructure growth. With our expertize in IT solutions and digital transformation, we aim to enhance connectivity and create a thriving digital economy. During an event in Jabalpur, I invited the Hon. Chief Minister to visit our office. Within a month, he not only visited but also engaged deeply with my team to understand our processes. His personal involvement in the state's development and the exceptional investment policies are truly inspiring.

Mr. Anurag Shrivastava
Founder & CEO
Netlink

Adani Group has already invested 260 crore in the state. A 2 million tonne cement project will commence in Guna, while Shivpuri will see the launch of a propellant project with a total investment of INR 3500 Cr. and generating employment for 3500 persons for both the projects. Additionally, a jacket production unit, operated by women, will be established as part of our women empowerment initiative.

Mr. Karan Adani
Managing Director
Adani Ports

Madhya Pradesh stands at the forefront of India's growth story, making remarkable strides across diverse sectors and becoming a beacon of progress. With its strong emphasis on ease of doing business, investor-friendly policies, and sustainable development, the state has created an enabling environment where innovation, industry, and infrastructure thrive.

As Madhya Pradesh continues on its transformative journey, it is poised to emerge as a pivotal force shaping India's economic future and a leading destination for global investors.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, India

I warmly welcome investors, industry leaders, and stakeholders to the Global Investors Summit 2025. Inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, Madhya Pradesh is unlocking growth through progressive policies and sustainable development.

With abundant resources, robust infrastructure, and a vibrant workforce, the state is fostering progress across key sectors like manufacturing, IT, and renewable energy, propelling India towards becoming a global economic powerhouse.

Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Rewa has truly been put on the map with its remarkable progress and commitment to sustainable development. The region's focus on environmental initiatives aligns closely with the values of the Dalmia Group, where growth and responsibility go hand in hand. Our CSR activities are dedicated to not only enhancing the quality of life in communities but also fostering long-term progress. We see Rewa as a beacon of growth, where opportunities for development resonate with our vision for a sustainable and prosperous future.

Mr. Puneet Dalmia
Chairman & MD
Dalmia Group

Under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, these Regional Industry Conclaves are driving unprecedented industrial growth. The State's exceptional industrial environment has fostered the success of numerous businesses. Bansal Group of Industries has announced plans to invest ₹1,350 Crores in the State, including the establishment of four super specialty hospitals, a 100 MW solar plant and a hotel.

Mr. Sunil Bansal
Managing Director
Bansal Group of Industries

The Government of Madhya Pradesh operates with exceptional efficiency to support the state's industries. Currently, 20% of the employees at Tropilite Foods are women, all hailing from Gwalior. We aim to expand our workforce to over 500 and increase the number of women employees from Gwalior.

Mr. Puneet Davar
Managing Director
Tropilite Foods

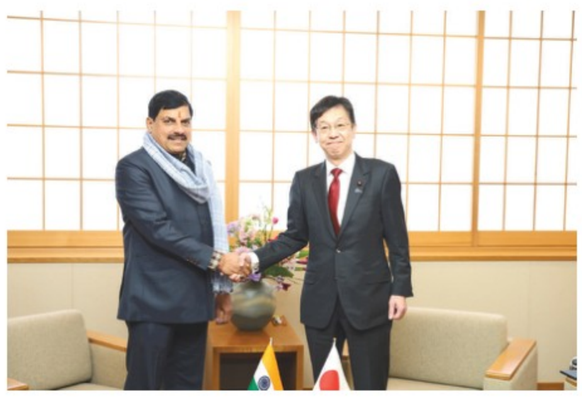
Key Highlights

MSME GROWTH:

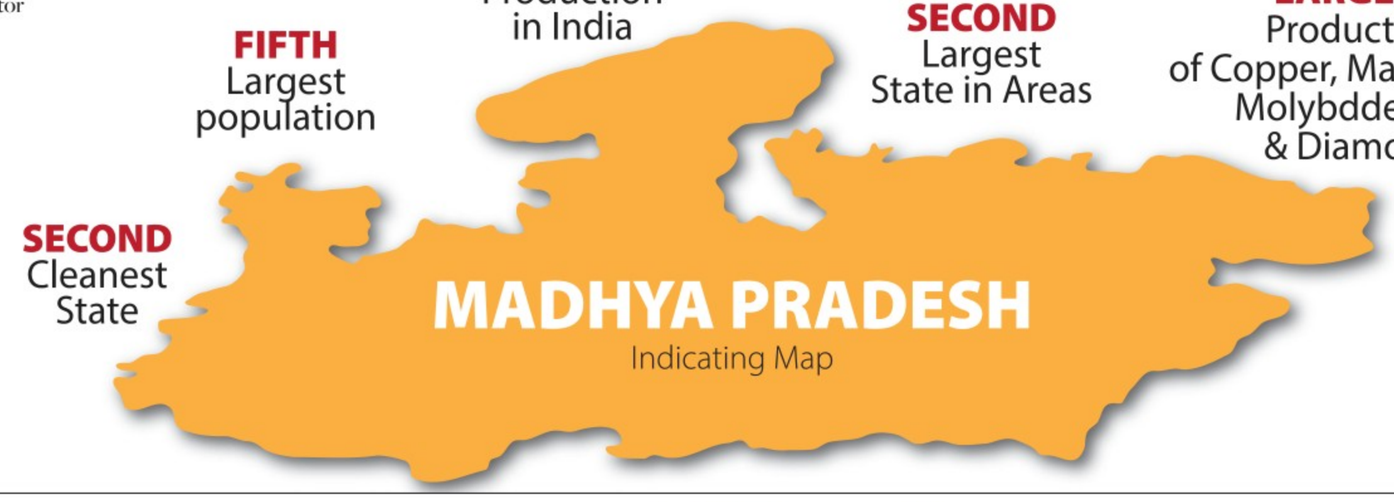
- 1.65 million MSMEs operating across manufacturing, trading, and services.
- 8.6 million people employed in the MSME sector.
- Contributing ~30% to the State GDP.
- Rs. 53,000+ Cr investment in MSMEs.
- 5 lakh+ MSMEs in the service sector.
- 2.63 lakh+ (16%) women-owned MSMEs, empowering female entrepreneurs.

STARTUP ECOSYSTEM:

- 5,000+ startups registered under the MP Startup Policy.
- 50,000+ employment opportunities created.
- 72 incubators providing mentorship and technical support.
- Rs. 10+ Cr invested by 3 empaneled Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- 47% of startups led by women, fostering gender-inclusive entrepreneurship.
- Key sectors: IT, Healthcare, Agritech, Construction, and Engineering.
- A unified Startup Portal (startup.mp.gov.in) connecting all ecosystem players.



POSSIBILITIES ACROSS THE STATE



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THE HINDU

LIVING

Cost of urban expansion

Sathya Prakash Varanashi

Our cities grant us success and stress, comfort and congestion, wealth and waste. As urbanisation accelerates, are we heading towards self-destruction?

Cities primarily have people who consume finite natural resources such as land, water, coal-generated power, sand, stone, soil, and timber. FILE PHOTO

Will ever-expanding cities like Bengaluru be able to sustain their vitality? FILE PHOTO

Most of us have heard the story of Aladdin's lamp, the tale of a poor boy from ancient China who is picked up by a sorcerer from the Maghreb to retrieve a magic lamp that grants every desire. Aladdin overpowers the sorcerer and lives happily with the lamp.

Metaphorically, we treat our cities like Aladdin's lamp. They seem to provide everything we wish for, but unlike the lamp, which grants only what is asked, cities also give us what we don't ask for. We get success and stress, fame and failure, power and pressure, love and loneliness, income and isolation, comfort and congestion, solutions and confusion, goods and garbage – the list goes on.

We view cities as oceans of opportunity, ladders to success, and engines of growth. But what if this relentless growth is leading us towards self-destruction? Aladdin's lamp remains unchanged in the story, but can ever-expanding cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad sustain their vitality, or will they one day lose their sheen and decline? Can our decision-makers plan for the future?

Unlike rural economies, which draw from direct resources such as agriculture, animal husbandry, mining, and fisheries, cities thrive on secondary sources like services, sales, marketing, management, and governance. Urban centres are primarily consumers, especially of finite natural resources such as land, water, coal-generated power, sand, stone, soil, and timber.

The per capita consumption of these resources in cities far exceeds that in rural areas – not just through direct usage but also through indirect means: purchasing manufactured goods, residing in constructed buildings, travelling in fuel-powered vehicles, relying on air conditioning, dining out, and engaging in countless other activities.

Is limiting urbanisation essential for a sustainable future? This is a debatable question. Even if it is theoretically possible, will we do it? Current trends do not suggest any slowing down. By 2050, India's urban population is projected to reach 68%. If we continue with our existing economic models, lifestyle choices, governance structures, pursuit of wealth, and relentless chase for comfort, urban expansion will only accelerate.

> ***If we continue with our existing economic models, lifestyle choices, governance structures, pursuit of wealth, and relentless chase for comfort, urban expansion will only accelerate***

The least we can do – for the sake of future generations – is to adopt simpler, more sustainable lifestyles.

Take Bengaluru, for instance. Most policies, proposals, and administrative efforts focus on solving urban problems – be it traffic, garbage management, or water supply. While these initiatives are necessary, they inadvertently contribute to further urban expansion. More projects lead to more jobs, attracting more people, which, in turn, creates new challenges that demand further solutions. This cycle results in endless meetings, seminars, reports, and conferences by the government.

This is not to deny the possible benefits of more seminars, but to suggest to implement the available ideas first, think differently and try a paradigm shift. We need to sustain our cities as livable cities first, to sustain them climatically.

(The writer is an urban designer, heritage conservationist and ecological architect in Bengaluru.)

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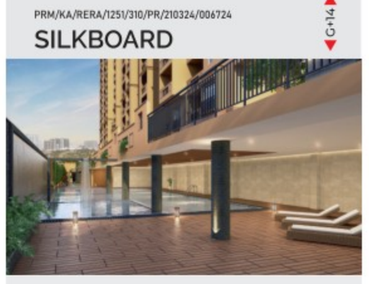
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BG-BGE

State cannot be seen to practise 'begar' to arm-twist aided educational institutions: HC

'It is highly uncouth on the part of the State government to stop the salaries of existing teachers'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is highly uncouth on the part of the State government to stop the salaries of the existing teachers, as an arm-twisting tactic, to compel an aided engineering college to obey its orders, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"This action of the State, making someone work without payment of salary, would amount to 'begar' and hit by Article 23 of the Constitution. The State cannot be seen to practise 'begar' taking shelter under an unavailable power, to arm-twist the petitioner-institution," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while partly allowing a petition filed by B.V.V. Sangha's Basaveshwara Engineering College, Bagalkot, a government-aided institution that receives grants from the government for payment of salaries to the

While giving liberty to the government to adopt a consultation process for deployment, the court ordered release of grant within seven days

staff. The college had questioned the legality government's June 2024 action of withholding grants for payment of salaries solely for the reason that the college did not honour the government's order of deploying six excess non-teaching staff from BVB Engineering College, Hubballi, to the petitioner-college. The court said the provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, the Rules governing recruitment in aided institutions, and Clause 9(A) of the Grant-in-Aid Code of the Karnataka Technical Education Department, vests power with the government to stop or withhold grant only when the aided institution fails to adhere to the government's directions on policies with regard to reservation of various posts for SC/ST/OBCs in recruitment process, promotions, and admission of students.

The State cannot use Clause 9(A) of the Code, which empowers the government to stop grants, to compel the aided institution to obey the government's decision on transferring/deploying employees, the court said, while pointing out that the law very specifically states that deployment of employees can be only after both the management of the aided institutions have been 'consulted'.

Pointing out that the government had not consulted the petitioner-institution in terms of the law prior to deploying six staff from another engineering college despite petitioner's repeated objection sent in writing, the court said the "transfer/deployment of employees can only happen as a consultation process and can never be a decision unipartite."

"The government has created a mess by passing the deployment order and trying to drop its might on the poor teachers by withholding the salary of both the teachers working in petitioner-institution and those who have been deployed now. It is highly unbecoming on the part of the State," the court observed. While giving liberty to the government to adopt a consultation process for deployment, the court ordered release of grant within seven days.

BJP urges govt. to withdraw move to shut down nine varsities

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

BJP leaders in Karnataka have urged the State government to withdraw the decision to shut down nine public universities and warned of State-wide protest otherwise.

Former BJP Ministers, MLAs, and senior party leaders said they would take up the issue in the upcoming legislative session.

Participating in a round table conference organised by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Friday, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra lashed out at the Congress government and said, "It is a foolish decision to close down universities. There should be a campaign against this unscientific decision across the State and we will take up this issue for discussion in the upcoming legislative session."

Former Higher Education Ministers C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Aravind Limbavali, and C.T. Ravi, who were present in the discussion, shared their views behind the establishment of the universities.

Mr. Ravi demanded a socio-economic audit of the universities, including the private ones. "We need to take in both political and academic angles. Establishing or closing universities should not be for political gain," he added. Mr. Ashwath Narayan urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to set aside ₹50 to ₹100 crore as one-time seed money for these universities instead of closing them.

CSR help

Mr. Limbavali suggested taking CSR help instead of closure. "It is a politically motivated decision and the government is doing it to manage the freebees," he alleged. ABVP representatives said that they had started a 'Bhavati Bikshandehi' campaign to collect money from the public and send it to the Chief Minister's account as the government said the universities are a financial burden.

BBMP to identify out-of-school children

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has appointed zonal joint commissioners as nodal officers to conduct a survey identifying out-of-school children within its jurisdiction, said Preeti Gehlot, special commissioner (education).

The initiative aligns with Article 21A of the Constitution, which guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14.

With the Karnataka High Court monitoring cases related to non-enrolled children, the BBMP has been directed to ascertain the exact number of children who are out-of-school.

The survey will commence on February 24, and it will be conducted using the Karnataka H2H Children Survey App of the Centre for e-Governance.

'Reduce minimum pass marks in SSLC to 33%'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools of Karnataka (KAMS), an association of State board schools, has demanded the State government to reduce the minimum pass marks in SSLC from 35% to 33%.

A day after the announcement by the Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa on reverting the minimum pass marks from 25%, which was implemented in Covid years, to 35% for this year, the association has on Friday petitioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to revise the same.

"Pass marks in other boards including Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) is only 33%, causing disadvantage to the State board students. And, this could be one of the major reasons for students shifting from State to other boards, and even many State board schools are closing down," the petition stated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **(i) Sri.B.Jyothi Prasad,** S/o Late B.Krishnaiah Chetty **(ii) Sri. B.Kishore Kumar,** son of B.Jyothi Prasad, Both residing at No. 8, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560 078 owners of the Schedule Immovable Property had entered into an unregistered Memorandum Of Understanding dated 03.03.2016 and an unregistered Development Agreement dated: 25.04.2016 with one **M/s Neo Infrastructure,** A Partnership Firm registered under the Registrar of Firms, having its registered office at no.: No.355/2, 1st Floor, 14th 'B' Cross, 5th Main, 6th Sector, Adjacent to Cuppa Coffee, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560102, on the Terms and Conditions to be strictly observed and performed between the Parties in respect of the Schedule Immovable Property.

It is further represented by my clients that the said **M/s Neo Infrastructure** has committed breach / default and violated the terms and conditions of the said Memorandum of Understanding and the said Development Agreement and therefore my clients have terminated the same by way of **Termination Notice dated 02.01.2020** and therefore the said MOU and the said Development Agreement are not in force and both are **Null and Void.** Any actions taken or initiated by the said M/s Neo Infrastructure pursuant to the Termination Notice shall not be binding on my clients and that my clients shall not be Accountable/ Responsible for the same. Public are hereby cautioned not to transact or deal with the said M/s Neo Infrastructure in respect of the schedule immovable property belonging to my clients.

Schedule Immovable Property (Combined Schedule)

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property being residentially converted undeveloped lands bearing survey numbers **(a) Sy.No. 35/2** measuring 1 acre 31 guntas, and 2 guntas of karab, **(b) Sy.No. 39/1** measuring 4 acres 24 guntas **(c) Sy.No.41/1** measuring 1 acre 25 guntas and **(d) Sy.No.44 New Sy.No. 44/1** measuring 2 acres all **situated at Haragadde Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore,** in total measuring 9 acres and 37 guntas along with 2 guntas of karab and bounded on : East by : Lands in Survey No. 42/1, 41/2, 40, and Private Property; West by : Lands in Survey no. 37, 38/1, 39/2, 45/3, 45/2 and Other Private Properties; North by : Lands in Survey no. 35/1, and other Private Properties; South By : Road and Other Private Properties;

Manasa .V, BA.LLB Advocate,
"Elite Law Firm", No.9, 1st Floor,
Narayanaswamy Building,
Lakshmi Theatre Road,
Anekal - 562106
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E-mail: elitelawfirm2023@gmail.com
Place : Anekal, Bangalore.
Date: 22-02-2025.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. CR-SUR-SNT-P-PSSA-2025 Date: 18.02.2025. The Corrigendum for the following works has been published on IREPS dated 18.02.2025. **Name of Work with its Locality**: Providing Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for the work of: **1.** Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of stationary KAVACH equipment and other associated works over the jurisdiction of Solapur Division of Central Railways. **2.** Survey, design, supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of TOWERs for Kavach and other associated works over Central Railway of Solapur Division . **Cost of the work**: Rs 8,36,66,284.47. **Date of corrigendum published on IREPS**: 18.02.2025. **Date & Time of Closing of tender**: 20.03.2025 after 15.00 hrs. The details are available in IREPS website. Corrigendum/ amendments are uploaded on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the **www.ireps.gov.in**. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

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MEGA E-AUCTION
NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 19.03.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Guarantor(s), Mortgagor(s) & Co-obligant(s) that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive/ Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" on 19.03.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest, penal charges and costs thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **18.03.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.,** of respective branch as details below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Guarantor/s/ Co-Obligant/s Loan Account No.	Balance O/S as on 19.02.2025 Rs. Future Interest From + penal charges & Costs	Possession Date Possession Type	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Auction Time	Incremental Value of the Bid	Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code
1	**(1) Mr.Gopi K.M,** S/o Mr.Mariswamy.T, No.2150, B.M Kaval, 1st Cross, New Thippasandra Post, HAL 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560016. **(2) Mrs. Radharani. G** W/o Gopi K.M No.2150, B.M Kaval, 1st Cross, New Thippasandra Post, HAL 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560016 **Loan A/c Nos.:** **(1) TL A/c No. 7787001600005701** **(2) TL A/c No. 7787001600006001**	**Total Rs.2,63,66,684.04 (Rupee Two Crore Sixty Three Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Four & Four Paise Only)** **[(1)Rs. 2,15,78,542.24 + Interest from 28.08.2024 + Penal charges & cost.** **+** **(2) Rs.47,88,141.80 + Interest from 09.08.2024 + Penal charges & cost]**	**19.09.2024 & Physical**	All that Part and parcel of Residential Property measuring **950 Sq.Ft** with building constructed thereon, bearing **Khata No.25/12/9/4/2** (Eastern Portion), situated in 3rd Cross, Brindavan Layout, Vijinapura, K.R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, BBMP Ward No.51, Bengaluru-560016, **belonging to Mr.Gopi K.M and Mrs. Radharani. G. Boundaries of property as per Documents: East:** Property belonging to Puttamma, **West:** Remaining portion of same property, **North:** Road end, Brindavan Layout Building & Private Site, **South:** Passage.	**Rs. 99,10,000.00/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakh Ten Thousand only)**	**Rs. 9,91,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety One Thousand Only)**	**10.00 AM to 10.15 AM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Tumakuru-Vinobhanagara Branch A/c No: 7783500200004101 IFSC:KARB0000778**
2	**(1) Mrs. Shivamma Y C,** W/o T.C. Basavaraju, No 899, A M Palya, TUDA Layout, Sira Gate, Tumakuru-572106 **(2) Mr. T.C. Basavaraju** S/o C . Chikkanna, No. 899, A M Palya, TUDA Layout, Sira Gate, Tumakuru-572106. **Loan A/c No.:** **TL A/c No. 7577001600160701**	**Rs.49,95,473.27 [Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three and Paisa Twenty Seven Only] + Future interest from 30.03.2024 + costs.**	**28.11.2024 & Constructive**	**Item No.1:** All that part and parcel of **Residential Site bearing Site No.144, Khata No.5254, PID No.98726 formed in Survey No.31/4,31/14 and 31/15, measuring 2460 Sq.fts,** sitiuated at Maralenahalli Village, Ward No.1, Maralenahalli Extention, Sira Gate, Tumakuru belonging to **Mrs.Shivamma Y C. Bounded By: East:** Site No.145, **West:** Property of Dr.Hulinaykar, **North:** Site No.172,173,174, **South:**40 feet Road.	**Rs.74,54,000/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Only)**	**Rs.7,45,400/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Only)**	**10.40 AM to 10.55 AM**	**Rs. 50,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Tumakuru-Someshwarapuram Branch A/c No: 7573500200004101 IFSC:KARB0000757**
				Item No:2 : All that part and parcel of the **Residential Site bearing Site No.146,Khata No.5252,PID No.98724 formed in Sy.No.31/4,31/14 and 31/15, measuring 2400 Sq.ft** sitiuated at Maralenahalli Village, Ward No.1, Maralenahalli Extension, Sira Gate, Tumakuru, belonging to **Mrs.Shivamma Y C.** Bounded By: **East :** Site No.147, **West** : Site No.145, **North:** Site No.171 and 170, **South:**40 ft Road.	**Rs.72,72,000/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Only)**	**Rs.7,27,200/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Only)**	**11.00 AM to 11.15 AM**	**Rs. 50,000/-**	
3	**(1) M/s Y.S.R. Enterprises,** Represented by its Proprietor: Mr.R Satish, **(2) Mr.R Satish, S/o R Rajanna, No.1 and No.2 are Addressed at:** Khata No.63/A, Yaluvaguli Village, Tekal Hobli and Post, Malur Taluk, Kolar-563137, **(3) Mr.Mahesh Chandra C,** S/o V Chandrappa, **R/at:-** 78, Kavalagiriyanahalli Village, Tekal Hobli and Post, Malur Taluk, Kolar-563137. **Loan A/c No:** **PSOD A/c No.9387000600002101**	**Rs.1,02,11,131.00/- [Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Eleven Thousand One Hundred Thirty One Only] + Interest from 01.12.2023 + costs.**	**15.07.2023 Constructive**	All that part and parcel of **Residential Vacant Land bearing Sy.No.110/5,** measuring **0-27.50 Guntas,** converted for residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.ALN.SR.351/2014-15 dated 25.08.2016, situated at Tekal Village and Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District belonging to **Mr.R Satish. Boundaries of the property (As per documents): East By:** Property of T.S.Nagaraja Rao, bearing Sy.No.111, **West By:** Tekal to Bangarpet Road; **North By:** Property of T.S.Nagaraja Rao, bearing Sy.No.111 and Sy.No.110/2 belonging to Basha Sabi and Ashwathappa, **South By :** Property of T.S.Nagaraja Rao, bearing Sy.No.109.	**Rs. 67,87,200/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Only)**	**Rs. 6,78,720/- (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Only)**	**12.00 PM to 12.15 PM**	**Rs. 50,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bangarpet A/c No: 9383500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000938**
4	**(1) Mrs.Umavathi** W/o Mr.Swamy Dorai M., **(2) Mr.Swamy Dorai M.,** S/o Mr.Manoharan, **Both are residing at :** Site No.56, Katha No.813/56, Ward No.20, Palavathimmanahalli, Desihalli, Bangarpet-563162. **Loan A/c No.:** **PSTL A/c No.9387001800002701**	**Rs.8,84,035.09/- [Rupees Eight Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Thirty Five and Paisa Nine Only] + Interest from 27.11.2024 + costs and penal charges.**	**02.03.2023 Constructive**	All that part and parcel of Residential Site bearing **Site No.56, measuring 450 Sq.ft** (East to West 30 ft. and North to South 15 Ft.) , **New Municipal Khatha No. 813/56, ML Khatha No.813,** together with building constructed thereon situated at Ward No.20, Palavathimanahalli, Bangarpet Town, Kolar District, belonging to **Mrs.Umavathi Boundaries of property as per Documents: East:** Property No.57, **West :** Road, **North:** Property No.55, **South:** Remaining Property	**Rs. 11,00,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Only)**	**Rs. 1,10,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand Only)**	**11.40 AM to 11.55 AM**	**Rs. 50,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bangarpet A/c No: 9383500200004101, IFSC:KARB0000938**
5	**(1) Mrs.Nandhinni** W/o Mr.Shivappa, No.109, Sri Sai Essel Apartments, Bilishivale, SRK Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560077, Bengaluru Urban District, **(2) Mrs.Prema** W/o Mr.Muniraju, No.68, Nagaragiri Layout Road, Bilishivale, Dr.Shivaramakaranth Nagar, Bengaluru-560077, Bengaluru Urban District **(3) Mr.Shivappa** S/o B C Kempaiah, No.109, Sri Sai Essel Apartments, Bilishivale, SRK Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560077, Bengaluru Urban District. **Loan A/c Nos.:** **(1) TL A/c No. 1987001600030101** **(2) ODKC A/c No.1987000800000801** **(3) PSTL A/c No.1987001800029301**	**Total Rs.3,42,21,643.16 [Rupees Three Crore Forty Two Lakh Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Three and Paisa Sixteen only]** **[(1) Rs.2,80,84,056.26 + Interest from 01.10.2024 + penal charges & costs.** **(2) Rs.43,974.24 + Interest from 01.02.2025 + penal charges & costs.** **(3) Rs.60,93,612.66 + Interest from 21.01.2025 + penal charges & costs]**	**25.09.2024 & Constructive**	All that part and Parcel of residential Property bearing **Khatha No.23,** comprised in **Sy.No.49/4,** Land measuring **7078.50 Sq.ft** sitiuated at Bilishivale Village, Bidarahalli Hobli ,Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, belonging to **Mrs.Prema. Bounded by : East:** Property of Sri Ahmed Sharif, **West :** Property of Sri Anandkumar and Road, **North:** Road, **South:** Private Property.	**Rs.2,60,98,400/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Four Hundred only).**	**Rs.26,09,840/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Nine Thousand Eight HundredForty Only)**	**11.20 AM to 11.35 AM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Doddaballapura Branch A/c No: 1983500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000198**

(The Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Guarantor/s/ Co-Obligant/s attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).
This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule 8 / Sub Rule (1) of Rule 9 of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. https://karnatakabank.com.
The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://www.auctionbazaar.com/ on **19.03.2025 at above mentioned time** with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **https://www.auctionbazaar.com/** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **18.03.2025**) from **M/s ARCA EMART PVT LTD**(Known by their **website: www.auctionbazaar.com**)
Contact No. : 8885035382, E-mail : **contact@auctionbazaar.com and disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

Date : 19.02.2025
Place: Tumakuru

Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer,
Karnataka Bank Ltd.

KVB Karur Vysya Bank *Smart way to bank*

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** on **11.03.2025** for recovery of **Rs. 4,07,86,930.34/-(Rupees Four Crore Seven Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty and Paise Thirty Four Only)** due to **"The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd",** Secured Creditor from **1) M/s Cubatic Infra and Power Private Limited,** having its registered office at 2nd Floor, Dwarka Heights, Plot No. 17, Jubilee Enclave, Madhapur Hitech City, Hyderabad-500081 **(2) Mr Sathibabu Thiparthi,** S/o Surayanarayana Thiparthi, Residing at Plot no. 149, Eswar Villas, Nizampet Road, Kukatpally, Nizampet, Hyderabad- 500072 **(3) Mrs Sai Deepthi Kesana,** W/o Phani Kumar Gudidevuni, Flat No. 302, Sai Kalyan Residency, Bandari Layout, near NRI college, Nizampet, Qutubullapur, K.V Rangareddy, Hyderabad- 500090 **(4) Mrs M N Jayalakshmi (Guarantor and Title Holder),** W/o M D Ramashetty, No. 145, 60ft Road, BEML 5th stage, Near Shakti Hills Resort, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore 560096.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 1,70,00,000/-** (Rupees One crore Seventy Lakhs only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 17,00,000/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs only)

Description of the Immovable property: All that piece and parcel of the residential site bearing Sy No 105/2A1, Bannikuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk and District, measuring 1 Acre and 25 Guntas and bounded on: East By: Sy No 28/7 of Sheshagirihalli Village, West By: Lands in the same survey no i.e 105/2A1, North By: Land belonging to Sri Papaiah in the same survey no i.e 105/2A1, South By: Land Belonging to children of Sri Mulingappa and Sri Narasimhaiah in the same survey no i.e 105/2A1.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/ Secured Creditor's website i.e **www.kvb.co.in/Property** Under Auction also at the web portal BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**

Statutory 15 days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 21.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorized Officer
THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED

Major fire breaks out at Chamundi Hills in Mysuru

Four fire extinguishers were initially deployed to douse the blaze, and two more joined them later

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chamundi Hills in Mysuru witnessed multiple incidents of fire on Friday, with vast tracts of dry and scrub forest destroyed in the blaze.

It is suspected that the fire was initially stoked by miscreants and was first noticed close to Bandipalya and Uttanahalli Road, which is one of the approach roads to Chamundi Hills. Fire and Emergency Services personnel were deployed by the Forest Department but the raging flames were fanned by strong wind.

A raging fire at Chamundi Hills in Mysuru, on Friday. M.A. SRIRAM

Prone to fires
Chamundi Hills is a reserve forest and is prone to fire given the nature of its vegetation classified as dry tropical and scrub jungles. Though efforts have been made to "green" Chamundi Hills in the past, it was unsuccessful given the rugged and rocky terrain. While fire lines – which entail creating a bald patch of land around boundaries of different blocks and beats – is one of the methods of preventing the spread of fire from one block of the jungle to the other, they tend to be redundant if there is strong winds. Jayaramaiah, Chief Fire Officer, Mysuru Zone, told *The Hindu* that they had initially deployed four fire extinguishers at different sites where the fire was raging and two additional fire extinguishers joined them later.

"We can reach out to about 40 ft. on both sides of the road and damp the vegetation to prevent the spread of fire. But beyond that, it is not possible to venture as the terrain was steep and there was no approach road for vehicles," he said.

Too early to assess
Authorities said it was too early to assess the extent of forest destroyed in the fire as their first priority was to douse the flames. Though senior officials estimated the extent of forest lost at 30 acres, it was speculated that the figure could be much higher. Senior forest officials were at the spot supervising the operations. Chamundi Hills, known to be a place of pilgrimage and tourist importance owing due to the presence of Chamundeshwari Temple, is also an important watershed for Mysuru and regulates its microclimatic conditions. Despite the thorny and scrub vegetation prevailing on Chamundi Hills, it supports over 140 species of butterfly.

The Mysuru Nature, an NGO of volunteers, documenting the flora and fauna in Mysuru district, has noted that Chamundi Hills also supported 193 bird species belonging to 44 families, and the animals there include leopards, bonnet macaque, rusty spotted cat, small Indian civet, golden jackal, Blacknaped hare among others.

Five from Bidar killed in accident while returning from Maha Kumbh

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Five persons from Bidar who were returning from Maha Kumbh were killed in a road accident near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in the early hours of Friday. The accident happened when their vehicle collided with a truck parked on the roadside. Nine others were injured.

The deceased were identified as Lakshmi, 57, Neelamma, 62, Santosh Kumar, 45, Sunitha, 40, and Kalavathi, 40.

Sulochana, Sujatha, Kavitha, Anitha, Khushi, Ganesh, Sai, Bhagavatha, and Shivu were injured.

As per information shared by the police, their vehicle rammed the truck near Rupapur village, killing two persons on the spot. The pilgrims left Bidar for Prayagraj on February 18. They took a holy bath at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj and later visited Varanasi. The accident occurred when they were returning from Varanasi.

Expressing grief over the deaths, Forest Minister and Bidar district incharge Eshwar Khandre said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced compensation of ₹ 5 lakh each to the family of the deceased.

"As soon as I came to know about the tragic incident, I contacted the family members of the victims as well as the district administration. I have directed the administration to make all arrangements to shift the bodies to Bidar. The Inspector-General of Police in Varanasi, Channappa, is from Karnataka, and I am in constant touch with the officer. ," Mr. Khandre told presspersons in Bengaluru

₹1,000 cr. investment for Nagawara project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CapitaLand India Trust (CLINT), a property trust that has interests in commercial real estate space, will invest ₹1,000 crore in a 1.13 million sq.ft office project at Nagawara, Outer Ring Road, in the city.

CLINT has entered into a forward purchase agreement with Maia Estates Offices, an affiliate of Bengaluru-based luxury residential developer Maia Group (Maia), to acquire an office project at Nagawara, said the company. As part of the forward purchase arrangement, CLINT will fully fund the development of the office project and receive interest on the funding at a rate which is higher than its borrowing cost.

BBMP resolves long-standing dispute with traders in Public Utility Building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant development, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has resolved a prolonged rent dispute with traders operating within the Public Utility Building (PUB) on M.G. Road. This settlement is set to recover approximately ₹7 crore in outstanding arrears.

The PUB, once a bustling commercial hub in the 1980s and 1990s, has faced challenges in recent years due to declining footfall and maintenance issues. Traders have long expressed concern over inadequate upkeep and escalating rent demands by the BBMP.

Out of 88 shops in the complex, only about 50 are operational, with many proprietors citing the BBMP's neglect as a primary reason for shuttering their businesses. The shops entered into an out-of-court settlement. The mediation was led by Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil.

In response to mounting grievances, the BBMP initiated discussions with PUB Traders Association, culminating in an agreement to settle the outstanding dues. This resolution not only addresses the immediate financial concerns but also paves the way for potential improvements in the building's infrastructure and maintenance.

Time to play

Actor Shruti Haasan, performing as part of the Women's Premier League 2025 programme at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Friday. Royal Challengers Bengaluru lost to Mumbai Indians by four wickets. K. MURALI KUMAR (REPORT ON PAGE 19)

HBR Layout to get theme park

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) will build a theme park near the KPTCL station in the 5th block of HBR Layout. The park will be set up with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund at a cost of ₹4.65 crore.

The foundation stone for the park was jointly laid by Energy Minister K. J. George and Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre on Friday.

Mr. George said, "This will not only be a recreational space but also a hub for learning and community engagement. It will feature a training centre, facilities to promote rural games, an open-air theatre, walking paths, an open gym, drinking water units, and toilet facilities."

Energy Minister K. J. George and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre in HBR Layout, Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The ministers also reviewed the transformation plans for the Hennur Biodiversity Park which will undergo a comprehensive makeover at a cost of ₹2.75 crore. While instructing the officials to plant unique species in the biodiversity park and display their scientific names, making it a learning experience for visitors, they also directed the construction of facilities for clean drinking water, toilets, and walking paths for visitors.

While the Forest Department has earmarked ₹2 crore for the project, Mr. George said that ₹75 lakh will be allocated from the CSR fund.

From Page One

'10 candidates tampered with OMR sheets to get AEE post'

However, Anand S. Siddareddy, one of the aspirants, suspected some irregularities in the examination and filed an objection in this regard before the commission.

The KPSC formed a three-member sub-committee headed by Shantha Hosamani, a member of KPSC, to investigate the alleged irregularities on December 8, 2023. But alleging "indifferent attitude" of the then KPSC secretary, the sub-committee members withdrew from the investigation, the report said. The commission re-constituted a five-member sub-committee headed by Vijaykumar Kuchanure, a senior member of KPSC, on March 14 last year. The reconstituted sub-committee conducted 40 meetings from March 15, 2024, to January 20 this year, and examined all the objections.

The committee obtained from KPSC and verified the OMR sheets, question papers, correct answers, registration numbers, marks obtained in the examination, and footage from the CCTV cameras installed at the exam centres.

'Carbon copy lost'
"The committee had also asked all 24 candidates on the provisional selection list to produce a carbon copy of the OMR sheets. Out of them, 20 candidates produced them. However, four candidates had informed in writing that the carbon copy was lost," the report stated. Finally, the committee sent the footage, original OMR sheet, and carbon copy to the FSL for further investigation. The FSL report confirmed irregularities in the exam, it stated.

Candidates questioned
The committee then interrogated the accused candidates. The committee submitted a report of about 500 pages to the government along with other evidence, including the FSL report.

(This is the first of a three-part series on irregularities in KPSC exams.)

Pre-FAM tours launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Tourism has kicked off its pre-familiarisation (FAM) tours ahead of the Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE) 2025. The pre-event tours were flagged off at Kumara Krupa Guest House in Bengaluru by K.V. Rajendra, Director of the Department of Tourism and Managing Director of Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation.

Scheduled from February 26 to 28, KITE 2025 aims to position Karnataka as a leading global tourism destination, according to a release. Organised by the Department of Tourism, Karnataka Tourism Society, and supported by the Ministry of Tourism, the event will bring together stakeholders from the travel and hospitality industries to foster new business opportunities, release stated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Smt.Galina Ross** W/o Mr.Emerson Arulsingh is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Smt.M.Uma Devi alias Smt.Uma Rangan w/o Mr.Mohanrangam and her children 1) Sri.Arun Kumar, 2) Sri.Kiran Kumar, 3) Smt.Shalenee Yalla**; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing House List No.174 (Plot No.4), New Municipal No.2, having PID No.87-101-2, situated at **No.2, 5th Cross Jaijavan Nagar, Bangalore 560 043,[Subbarayanapalya] Banaswadi, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** converted as per order No.ALN.SR.2004/70-71 dated 07.09.1971 from the office of the Tahsildar, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East: 40 feet, West: 40 feet, North: 60 feet, South: 60 feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet and bounded on: **East by** : 30 feet Road **West by** : House List No.176 (Plot No.6) **North by** : House List No. 173 (Plot No.3) **South by** : House List No. 175 (Plot No.5)

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocate & Legal Consultant
Ph-9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-1&JE-2/IFT-37/2024-25 Dtd:20-02-2025
Short term Tender Notification -2 Cover system (Call-2)

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-3 and above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

SC Contractors 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements
1. Shikaripura taluk 1 Works (I.No:18687)

CAT-1 5054-04-337-0-01-160 MDR Renewal
1. Sagara taluk 1 Works (I.No:18712)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates : 20-02-2025 to 27-02-2025 Period of complisation:6 Months (Including Mansoon). If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only

Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/162/02/1718

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client **Mrs.Shravani.R**, W/o Sri.R.Devaraju, Aadhaar No.5668 6171 0139, residing at No.4/28, Tharabanahalli, near Venkateshwara Temple, Chikkajala Post, Bangalore North Taluk-562157, represents that the Original Sale deed dated 05.12.2013, Registered as Document No.JAL-1-02922/2013-14, in the office of the Sub Registrar Gandhinagara (Jala), executed by Smt.Pushpabai and other to in favour of Smt.Rathnamma, in respect to the SCHEDULE PROPERTY mentioned hereunder is lost/misplace and not traceable.

If anybody other than the said Mrs. Shravani.R has any claim, right, title and interest on the SCHEDULE PROPERTY by virtue of being in possession or otherwise of the above said Original Documents, or any Rights they should file their claim with documentary proof within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice in our office, at the address mentioned below, failing which, it will be taken for granted that nobody has any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the SCHEDULE PROPERTY other than the said Mrs.Shravani.R.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No.28, Katha No.37/28, E-Katha PID No.15020203100600042. Situated at Tharabanahalli Village, Chikkajala Village Panchayath, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring East to West South 27 feet and North to South 20 feet, together with house constructed thereon and is bounded on the: East by : Road; West by: Property of Narayanarao earlier Saraswathibai; North by : Property of Ramanjinirao (Old Passage); South by : Property of Saraswathibai;

SHRUTHI.S, Advocate,
Unit No.101, 1st Floor, No.663, at 3rd Cross,
Opp: to Karnataka Bank,
K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036.

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road), Bengaluru-25
Phone: 080-25584102/25594893 Website: www.ksphc.org
e-Mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/Tender/04/2024-25/523 Date: 21.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

1. **Construction of 3-Bay Fire Station at Kamalanagar in Bidar District under K-SAFE-2.** (Two Tender Document Systems) (APT Excluding GST Rs.222.14 Lakhs).
2. **Construction of 3-Bay Fire Station at Ajjampura in Chikkamagaluru District under K-SAFE-2.** (Two Tender Document Systems) (APT Excluding GST Rs.216.72 Lakhs).

Interested eligible Contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender Documents etc., are available on KPPP from **25-02-2025 onwards.**

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPPP.

DIPR/CP/SPAN/5256/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer-Contracts

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

DRM/Electrical,North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No : http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 17.03.2025** up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After 15.00 hrs. on **17.03.2025 Tender Notice No.** : 53/2024-25 **Name of work:** Up gradation & improvement of power supply network, panels, cables and other LT/HT switch gears & associated electrical items at Nehru Park colony, WS Colony & DS colony, traffic colony and nearby service buildings & important locations at Jodhpur. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : 3,04,26,735.25 **Tender Notice No.** : 54/2024-25 **Name of work:** Rewiring of staff quarters, service buildings, stations and LC gates & other important locations over JU Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : 2,07,00,026.00 For detailed information visit **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

214-DR/25

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur
(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hydrabad Road, Raichur -584102 Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
Web. www. rims-raichur.com Email info@rims-raichur.com

No. RIMS/SUP/TEND/2024-25/ Dated: 20.02.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Equipments & Instruments to various Departments, RIMS Raichur under two cover bid system through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No	Tender details	Tender Number	Approx.cost (in Lakhs)
1	Supply of Student Microscopes to Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/ 27/2024-25 DME/2024-25/IND1234	55.00
2	Supply of Equipments to Dept. of Ophthalmology, Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/ 28/2024-25 DME/2024-25/IND1235	31.50
3	Supply of OT Lights to Dept. of OBG, RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/ 29/2024-25 DME/2024-25/IND1236	60.00
4	Supply of Instruments & Consumables to Dept. of Orthopedics, RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/ 30/2024-25 DME/2024-25/IND1237	80.61

1) Tender document may be download from E-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 21.02.2025 2) Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 08.03.2025 upto 5.00 PM 3) Technical bid will be opened on 10.03.2025 at 11.30 AM

Further information may be obtained from above office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIP/RCR/752/KSMC&A/753/2024-25

Sd/- Director
Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences Raichur

State's economy was pushed to the brink during BJP rule: CM

Asserting that Karnataka's economy remains strong despite this, Siddaramaiah says the State's average Budget growth over the last two years is 18.3%, as against 5% during the four-year rule of the BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hitting back at Opposition BJP leaders for their remarks over Karnataka's financial situation, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said it was during the BJP's rule that the State's economy was pushed to the brink of collapse.

Asserting that Karnataka's economy remains strong despite this, he said the State's average Budget growth over the last two years was 18.3% as against just 5% during the BJP's four-year rule.

The Chief Minister was responding to allegations made by Opposition leaders that the State's economy is declining and Karnataka is heading towards "bankruptcy", holding the Congress government's guarantee schemes as responsible for it.

"Our government is working hard to bring the State's economy back on track after the mismanagement and chaos caused by the BJP's irresponsible financial policies. It is unfortunate that the BJP cannot accept or understand this," he said in a statement.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a pre-Budget meeting in Bengaluru on Friday.

> The Central government has stopped compensating the State for GST losses, causing an annual revenue loss of ₹18,000 crore to ₹20,000 crore.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

"The State's own tax revenue growth is 15% as against 11% during the BJP's tenure. We are providing over ₹90,000 crore annually directly to the people through DBT and subsidies... The Central government contributes only ₹450 crore, the same as during former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure. What has the BJP done for Karnataka?" he asked. Stating that Karnataka's fiscal discipline is intact, the Chief Minister said the fiscal deficit is below 3%, and total liabilities are within 25% of the GSDP. "Our capital expenditure is better than neighbouring progressive States. Karnataka is spending 15.01% of its Budget on capital expenditure as against 12.74% by Maharashtra, 10.58% by Tamil Nadu, and 11.58% by Telangana," he said.

He added that Karnataka was providing over ₹52,000 crore for guarantee schemes and supporting farmers in distress. "Our government has implemented the 7th Pay Commission report, increasing salaries by 27.5%. We are paying an additional ₹16,000 crore in salaries this year."

BJP's unpaid bills

Giving details of the finances during the BJP regime, the Chief Minister said the BJP had taken up projects worth seven times more than the Budget allocated during its tenure. "As of March 31, 2023, they left behind unpaid bills worth ₹2,70,695 crore for key departments such as Public Works, Minor Irrigation, Water Resources, Urban Development, Rural Development, and Housing. They also approved projects worth ₹1,66,426 crore under the Chief Minister's discretionary fund. Can such financial mismanagement, irresponsibility, and corruption be fixed in just a few years?" he asked. He further said that despite the BJP-led Central government under Narendra Modi "exploiting Karnataka's resources", State BJP leaders have remained silent. "The Central government has stopped compensating the State for GST losses, causing an annual revenue loss of ₹18,000 crore-₹20,000 crore."

Tax devolution

Reiterating that the Centre had done "great injustice" to Karnataka in tax devolution, he said, "In 2018-2019, when the Central Budget was ₹24.42 lakh crore, Karnataka received ₹35,895 crore as its share. Now, with the Central Budget at ₹50.65 lakh crore, Karnataka is expected to receive only ₹51,000 crore. When compared with 2018, we should have received at least ₹73,000 crore. This alone causes an annual loss of ₹22,000 crore to the State."

Due to the poor implementation of the GST since 2017, the Central government's refusal to share cess and surcharges as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission, and the failure to release ₹5,300 crore for the Bhadra Upper Bank project, Karnataka has lost over ₹2.1 lakh crore, he said.

Pre-Budget meeting on excise witnesses clashes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The pre-Budget meeting on Excise chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday witnessed an altercation between liquor vendors' associations.

After the meeting concluded, a verbal altercation between two vendors' associations intensified in the corridor of the Vidhana Soudha, reaching a point where office-bearers of both organisations resorted to fisticuffs. However, the issue was resolved following intervention by other office-bearers and officials.

Sources said 12 liquor vendors' associations from the State were invited to the meeting. However, members of the Karnataka State Liquor Merchants' Development Cooperative Society from Mysuru were not given a chance to submit their proposals, due to lack of time.

This enraged the members, who raised objections and there was a verbal altercation between the office-bearers of the society and members of the Federation of Wine Merchants Association Karnataka, who were present at the spot.

Sources said there were differences between the two organisations in the past as well.

The federation, led by S. Guruswamy, had called for a bandh to condemn corruption in the Excise Department. At that time, the society, led by Chandrashekhar, had not supported the bandh call.

Meanwhile, with the government mulling over auctioning defunct CL-2 (retail liquor shops) and CL-9 (bars and restaurants) licences to mobilise resources, the participants of the pre-Budget meeting urged the Chief Minister not to go ahead with the auctioning.

They also demanded that the profit margin on the income from the business should be doubled from the existing 10% to 20%.

The office-bearers of the associations said they demanded that the duty levied on beverages and manufacturers should also be reduced.

'No proposal to permit Muslim staff to leave early during Ramzan'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said on Friday that there was no proposal before the government to allow Muslim government employees to leave work early during Ramzan.

Responding to a question on State Congress vice-presidents Y. Syed Ahmed and A.R.M. Hussain's petition to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to allow all Muslim government employees to leave work early during Ramzan, the Home Minister said no discussions in this regard were held.

"They may have submitted a proposal but there is no such proposal before the government. This was not discussed in the Cabinet or any other platform," he said.

In the petition, the Congress vice-presidents urged the Chief Minister to permit Muslim staff to leave work by 4 p.m. to break their fast (Iftar). They cited the example of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana deciding to allow Muslim employees to leave work an hour early during Ramzan.

BJP leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, hit out at the Congress, calling the proposal by its leaders to the government "appeasement politics".

Office of profit and Cabinet Minister-rank row: HC notice to govt., 42 legislators

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday ordered the issue of notice to the State government and 42 legislators on a PIL petition that has questioned the legality of appointing the 42 legislators as heads of various boards and corporations having office of profit and extending the Cabinet Minister rank, along with the associated perks, to them.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun passed the order on the petition filed by Suri Payala, a resident of Bengaluru who is working as an Engineer-in-Chief level officer with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

Definite response

Observing that "the issues raised in the petition bear constitutional and democratic importance, deserve to be thrashed out finally. It

will require a definite response from the State government," the Bench adjourned further hearing till March 27.

Senior Advocate J. Sai Deepak, appearing for the petitioner, argued that appointments of the 42 legislators, both MLAs and MLCs, as heads of boards and corporations and for other posts having the office of profit along with the status of Cabinet Minister plus associated perks, are violation of the Constitution and statutory provisions.

These legislators will have to be disqualified for violation of Article 191(1)(a) of the Constitution, which bars legislators from holding any 'office of profit', as their appointment is also in violation of the provisions of the Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1956, which exempts a legislator from being disqualified for holding certain posts of office of profit, contended Mr. Deepak.

Extending the Cabinet Minister rank to additional 42 legislators on their appointment as heads of various boards and corporations, and other posts amounts to the violation of the mandate of Article 164 (1A), which restricts the number of Ministers in the Council of Ministers in a State to 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State, Mr. Deepak said, while pointing out that permissible number of Ministers (both the Cabinet and Minister of State ranks) in Karnataka is 34 and there are already 33 Ministers in the State.

Earlier petition

Meanwhile, State Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty contended that the issue of extension of the Cabinet Minister status to legislators other than Ministers was decided by the High Court in an earlier PIL petition (Umapathi vs. State of Karnataka) and hence this petition does not survive on the issue of the alleged violation of Article 164(1A).

However, the Bench observed that though *prima facie* it appears that the issue of violation of Article 164(1A) was dealt in an earlier petition, the issues raised in the present petition had the dimension of alleged violation of Article 191(1)(a), the office of profit, and the entire issue "deserves serious attention as it has a definite public interest element and democratic significance, under the Constitution".

The petitioner has sought a direction from the court to set aside the appointment of legislators as heads of boards and corporations and declare them as disqualified from their respective membership of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

Muzrai Department directs temples to hold 'Gau Puja' during Deepavali

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Muzrai Department has issued a circular directing the temples operating within its ambit to conduct Gau Puja (cow worship) on the occasion of Balipadyami during Deepavali festivities in Karnataka. The circular was issued on February 13.

The circular states: "In the Hindu religion, cow is perceived as Gau Mata (mother) and revered. The Hindus worship the animal giving it a special status. It

Ramalinga Reddy

is important to spread awareness about the religious and cultural significance attached to the cow. On the day of Balipadyami, the temples should bathe cows, adorn them with flowers, *arashina-kunkuma* (turmeric and vermilion) and offer jaggery, rice, and fruits as *gograsa*. The puja should be offered to the cattle in the evening." A similar circular was issued in 2021 when the BJP was in power.

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said there was nothing wrong or out of the ordinary in the circular. "The puja was conducted in the past too. Why should we change that practice? Let it continue."

The latest circular also directed the temples to celebrate Varamahalakshmi festival by giving green bangles and *arashina-kumkuma* to women devotees. The circular directed temples to perform *rudrabhisheka/homa* in connection with Shivaratri festivities, and organise religious and cultural events.

K. Neela, social activist, questioned the need for a special circular on Gau Puja. "When the BJP was in power, the government had issued many such orders. Ironically, the Congress' actions contradicts its claim of being secular, scientific, and pro-Constitution," she said.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER दिनांक/Dated : 21-02-2025

1. इसरो कर्मचारी क्वार्टर्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में तरण ताल का निर्माण (सिविल तथा इलेक्ट्रोमैकानिकाल कार्य) / Construction of Swimming Pool at ISRO Staff Quarters, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & Electromechanical works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/27/2024-25 Dt. 23.12.2024, **PAC: ₹/Rs. 127.43 लाख/Lakhs**
2. 70 एकड़, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में नोदनचालित प्रयोगशाला का ऊर्ध्वाधर विस्तार (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Vertical Extension of Fueldraulic Lab at 70 Acre, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/31/2024-25 Dt. 29.01.2025, **PAC: ₹/Rs. 260.32 लाख/Lakhs**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 27.02.2025, 23.00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए / Extended upto 23:00 hrs. on 27.02.2025

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.in/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director,
सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG,VSSC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ಸಂಃಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಲೋಇ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂಶಾ–1/2024–25/ 3253, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–02–2025

–ಃಃ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಃಃ–

ವಿಷಯಃ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕುರಿತು.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಃ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂಃಕಾನಿಅ/ಲೋಇ/ಯಾವಿ/ ತಾಂಶಾ–1/ 2024–25/ 3064, ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 03–02–2025.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ (1)17690, (2)17691, (3)17692 ಮತ್ತು (4)16219 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫಿಕೇಶನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ(ಲೈಸೆನ್ಸ್)ಯನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾದ ವಿವರ	ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ವಿವರ
1	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	MSME Certificate

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿಃ 1) ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. 2)ಉಳಿದಂತೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/504/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2024–25

INDORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
7, Race Course Road Indore (MP)
Email: idaindore7@yahoo.in

No.: IDA/ETENDER/2024-25/291/42 Date: 19-02-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TENDER ID 2025_DTCP_403298_1 (1st Call)

The Indore Development Authority (IDA) has developed a State-of-the-Art Infrastructure of Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) at Kumedi (MR-10), Indore over 5.85 Hectors and intends to invite proposals from interested parties for the work of Lease cum Operation and Maintenance of ISBT Kumedi, Indore on LUMSUM offer.

RFP documents can be purchased from website **https://mptenders.gov.in**. Help manual can be seen on the portal of e-procurement system.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Cost of RFP Document including GST(Rs.)	EMD as Bid Security (Rs.)	Duration of Work
1	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR LEASE CUM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ISBT, KUMEDI INDORE	11800/-	1000000/-	20 Years (Initial Period) +Extended by 5 Years*

*Subject to the satisfactory performance reviewed by IDA, Indore

Interested parties may purchase/download the Request for Proposal (RFP) Document online only from the e-procurement portal of Madhya Pradesh **https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** from **20-02-2025** 18:55 hrs. to **11-03-2025** 18:00 hrs. A Pre-bid Meeting will be held on **03-03-2025** at 11:30 hrs in the Conference Hall of IDA, Indore.

Kamal Singh
Executive Engineer, Indore Development Authority
Mob.: 7440443319

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Raja Sekhar Pisupati also known as Rajesh P.N aged 39 years, Son of P.V.Nagaraja alias Nagarajan Venkatachalam, Residing at B-1104, Aishwarya Excellency, Opposite Tin Factory, Old Madras Road, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560016, hereby notify that both names Raja Sekhar Pisupati and Rajesh P.N refer to myself. I further declare that my name has been inadvertently mentioned as Rajesh P.N instead of Raja Sekhar Pisupati in a Registered Will executed by the testator Mr. K.S Sridhar before the Office of the Sub Registrar Office Basavanagudi vide Document No:118 of 2017-18 dated 19-10-2017. My official name as per my identification documents in Aadhaar card, PAN card and other government IDs is Raja Sekhar Pisupati. If anyone has objection in using my official name for the purposes of claiming my right under the aforesaid Will, shall send their objections to the undersigned within 7 days otherwise it will be absolute.

Sd/- **RAJA SEKHAR PISUPATI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Smt. Shalini Harish, wife of Sri. Harish Naidu is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claims against to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, Joint Development Agreement, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within10 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land with Residential Building compromising of Basement, Ground Floor, First and Second Floor bearing E-Katha No.1687291 (PID No.72-38-191) in site bearing No. 191, formed out of Survey Nos.57 to 82, of Domlur Village, Civil Area, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, in the Layout Plan sanctioned by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, formed by the Amarajyoti House Building Co-operative Society Limited, Bangalore, measuring 34+30/2 X 57 totally measuring 3300 Sq ft and land area being 202.66 Sq Yards or 169.36 Sq Mtrs and bounded on the East by: Road; West By: Site No.190; North By: Road ; South By: Site No.192.

Dated this the 22th day of February 2025 at Bangalore.

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main
Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore –560102
Phone: 080-65555914
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

P DEVARAJAN (77),Retired Associate Editor ,The Hindu Businessline, Mumbai passed away on 21-February 2025. Address: Flat no 701, B Wing, Dharma Nagar, Yogi Nagar Road,Yogi Nagar ,Borivali West., Mumbai- 400 091. Contact: 98849 32091

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

No investor to face barrier of red tape in Kerala: CM

Pinarayi highlights the State's strides in simplifying investment procedures at the Invest Kerala Global Summit; setting aside differences, Opposition parties put up a united face at the summit

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here on Friday that the Left Democratic Front government ensured that no investor coming to Kerala would have to face the "cobweb of procedural delays and meet the barriers of red tape."

"Kerala's investment scenario is in the cusp of history. We have made major strides in simplifying procedures as regards investments," he said in his inaugural address at the two-day Invest Kerala Global Summit. "It is at this juncture that this summit is taking place bringing together global investors, visionaries in the field, experts, and policymakers, aiming to explore the investment potential of Kerala and witness our initiatives towards building an investor-friendly architecture in the State," he added.

The Chief Minister quoted the Kerala Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises Facilitation Act, 2019 as an example for simplification of procedures under which MSMEs can start by obtaining acknowledgement certificate from the online K-SWIFT portal. Necessary licences need to be obtained within a period of next three years and six months, he said.

United for a cause: (from left) Piyush Goyal, Pinarayi Vijayan, State Minister for Industries P. Rajeeve, and V.D. Satheesan during the Invest Kerala Global Meet in Kochi on Friday. THULASI KAKKAT

Adani Group to invest ₹30,000 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Adani Group will invest ₹30,000 crore in Kerala over the next five years, Karan Adani, managing director, Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd., has said.

The investments will include ₹5,500 crore to expand operations of the Thiruvananthapuram airport and another ₹20,000-crore additional investment in the Vizhinjam port aimed at turning the facility into the largest transhipment port in this part of the world, he said in his address at the Invest Kerala Global Summit here on Friday.

He said the Adani Group is also investing in a logistics and e-commerce hub in Kochi. The cement-handling capacity in Kochi will also be scaled up. These investments will total ₹30,000 crore in the next five years, he said.

He said the government has focused a lot on the development of transport infrastructure. The State, despite its fiscal constraints, contributed 25% of the cost for land acquisition for widening of National Highway 66. It took all steps to get approvals of the Centre for railway development necessary for running high speed trains, he said.

Minister seeks withdrawal of contaminated injectable drugs from market

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Drawing the attention of the Union Health Minister to the sale of contaminated injectable drugs within Karnataka by manufacturers from outside the State, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has demanded that the Centre immediately withdraw such drugs from markets across India.

In a letter dated February 20, addressed to Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Mr. Rao pointed out that between January 1, 2025, and February 16, 2025, nine injectable drugs manufactured in other States failed 'sterility testing' in laboratories of the Karnataka government. These drugs include the commonly used diclofenac sodium, dextrose, and calcium gluconate injections. He provided details of the drugs, along with batch numbers, in the letter.

"This list does not include numerous injectables manufactured by Paschim Banga Pharmaceuticals, based in West Bengal, whose contaminated injectables caused the death of five young mothers in Ballari district of Karnataka," the letter stated.

This is the third time that Mr. Rao is flagging the issue of sale of substandard drugs in Karnataka by manufacturers from other States. On January 9, he had written to Mr. Nadda urging the Union Health Minister to take the initiative to introduce legislative reforms to help improve the quality of drugs, not just in Karnataka, but across the country.

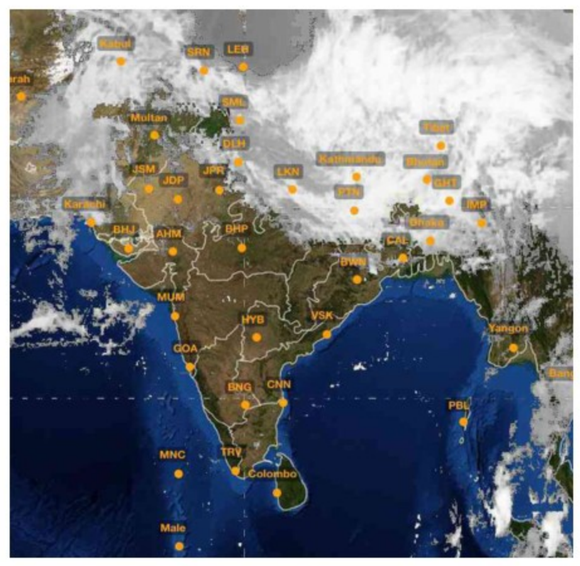
In December 2024, the Health Department had written to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) pointing out a mismatch in the test results conducted by the State and the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Kolkata. The department had sought an investigation into the Standard Quality certification issued by the CDL, Kolkata, to Paschim Banga Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of compound sodium lactate injection IP (ringer's lactate) that caused maternal deaths.

What the letter says

In the latest letter, Mr. Rao has said although he has instructed his department to take adequate steps to ensure the contaminated injectable drugs are no longer sold within Karnataka, it is highly likely that other contaminated drugs manufactured by these companies are being sold in other States in India. "Injectables, as you are aware, are used in acute care, and therefore are high risk to patients. Given the 'life or death' consequences for patients being administered these contaminated drugs, I request you to use your good offices to ensure that all products sold by these companies are withdrawn from the markets across India. These companies should not be allowed to sell any more drugs until they are inspected by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for compliance with good manufacturing practices," the letter states.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with gusty winds/hailstorm/lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand and north Chhattisgarh. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.5	18.2	Kozhikode	—	35.4	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	33.7	19.0	Kurnool	—	37.2	23.4
Aizawl	—	30.2	12.7	Lucknow	—	30.5	15.5
Allahabad	—	32.9	15.6	Madurai	—	35.4	21.4
Bengaluru	—	33.4	19.0	Mangaluru	—	33.2	25.4
Bhopal	—	31.2	15.0	Mumbai	—	37.3	20.0
Bhubaneswar	22	33.3	19.5	Mysuru	—	34.1	16.5
Chandigarh	0.4	25.4	11.4	New Delhi	—	26.6	12.3
Chennai	—	31.6	24.0	Patna	—	30.4	18.6
Coimbatore	—	35.1	21.4	Port Blair	—	31.3	24.5
Dehradun	—	24.7	10.4	Puducherry	—	32.0	22.5
Gangtok	—	13.7	8.6	Pune	—	37.2	19.6
Goa	—	35.0	24.0	Raipur	—	34.2	21.7
Guwahati	—	30.4	12.7	Ranchi	—	28.6	15.6
Hubballi	—	35.0	22.0	Shillong	—	19.0	10.2
Hyderabad	—	34.1	22.8	Shimla	3.6	17.4	6.0
Imphal	—	26.7	10.1	Srinagar	11	11.5	1.6
Jaipur	—	28.0	16.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.6	23.2
Kochi	—	31.6	26.0	Tiruchi	—	33.9	21.4
Kohima	—	19.2	6.9	Vijayawada	—	33.6	21.5
Kolkata	16	30.2	18.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	24.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	25	32	21	284	198	
Bengaluru	8	15	48	105	96	
Chennai	6	8	31	46	84	
Delhi	72	47	37	213	166	
Hyderabad	13	50	79	115	132	
Kolkata	9	43	37	83	94	
Lucknow	10	83	60	258	204	
Mumbai	11	110	18	118	193	
Pune	17	126	44	228	161	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 299 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 33

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Department, Central Office, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560027.
No.BMTC/CO/CE/EE/1881/2024-25 Dated: 21.02.2025
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 37 /2024-25

Tenders are invited for the works of **1) "Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Inspection Equipment at Automated Vehicle Fitness Testing Station (ATS) at Jadigenahalli, (Bengaluru) in Karnataka State (Call-4)"**- EMD: **Rs. 6,75,000/-, 2) "Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of UPS installed at Depots, Workshops, TTMCs, Bus stations and offices of BMTC (Call-2)"** - EMD: **Rs. 11,500/-, 3) "Providing Borewell along with allied works at Depot-21, Rajarajeshwari nagar Bengaluru" -** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 7.04 Lakhs and EMD: Rs. 17,600/-, 4) "Providing Borewell along with allied works Whitefield Depot, Bengaluru" -** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 8.48 Lakhs and EMD: Rs. 21,200/-, 5) "Providing Borewell along with allied works at Gunjur Depot, Bengaluru"-** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 8.48 Lakhs and EMD: Rs. 21,200/- 6) "Providing Borewell along with allied works at Electronic City Depot, Bengaluru" -** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 8.48 Lakhs and EMD: Rs. 21,200/-** and **7) "Providing Borewell along with allied works at Koramangala Depot, Bengaluru"-** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 9.92 Lakhs and EMD: Rs. 24,800/-.** Participating bidders will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc in e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only. Documents will not be accepted in person physically.

(1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **07.03.2025.** Date of opening of Tender: **10.03.2025.** (2) Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer during working hours or through website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BMTC.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Canal Division, Yediyur-572 142. Ph: 7338590199
E-mail:eeyediyur1@gmail.com
No.14/2024-25 Date:15.02.2025

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through KPPP only)

On the behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi Canal. Division, Yediyur the undersigned invites tender on item rate basis from contractors for 1 Work. The amount put to tender is 381.15 lakhs. The Time Fixed for completion the work is 05 Months. EMD Amount and Processing fees should be paid through KPP Portal. The last date for tender Queries/ Clarifications is 24.02.2025 up to 5.00 pm, The last date for Receival of tenders along with EMD'S is 05.03.2025 up to 5:00 pm. Technical Bid will be opened on 06.03.2025 at 5.00 pm. For more information contact www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Hemavathy Canal Division, CNNL, Yediyur.
DIPR/TUM/656/KSMCA/2024-25

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner for Transport in Karnataka, 1st Floor, T.T.M.C. Building, B.M.T.C. Complex, Shantinagara, Bengaluru.
No: CT/F&B-3/PR-161/2024-25 Date: 19.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Quotations are invited by Transport Department from the eligible firms for Establish and maintain Automatic Testing Station on BOO & DBFOT pattern at Cluster-5 location. Quotations along with necessary documents shall be submitted online through e-Procurement platform only. For more details please log on to e-Procurement website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in They may take assistance from e-Procurement help desk at +91-8046010000/+91-8068948777.
Last date for submission of Bids is: **04-04-2025 upto 4-00 p.m.**
For clarifications please contact: **080-22235176.**
Tender No. TD/2024-25/SE0081.

Sd/-
For Commissioner for Transport Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/5230/MAA/2024-25

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notification
This office letter No.EE/PB/Tnd/2024-25/4059/4647/ Dated : 20-02-2025

On 20-02-2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following One (1) Work Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : 21-04-2025 (upto 4.00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- **(N.N. Patil)**
Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR MOVABLE ITEMS

Pursuant to attachment of movable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the movables attached through e-auction on **'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.**
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.

Short description of the Vehicle

Sl. No.	Description of Vehicle	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Variant: Pleasure Manufacturer: Her Limited Vehicle No: KA 22 ED 9459 Year Of Mfg: 2010.	7,700/-	500/-	50/-
2.	Variant: Mahindra Rodeo Manufacturer: Mahindra & Mahendra Vehicle No: KA 22 ED 3175 Year Of Mfg: 2010.	5,800/-	500/-	50/-
3.	Datsun- Go Car- with petrol as fuel, silver grey Colour with Registration No. MH-09-DA-4853 with Engine No. 742963A and Chassis No. MDHZBAAOE3003871, Model 2014	1,24,750/-	7,000/-	700/-

Date of Pre bid Meeting time & Place : **10th of March 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm.**
Place: **O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01**
Date of Inspection Time & Place : **11th of March 2025, 11 am to 2 pm.**
Place of Inspection: **Sl. No. 1 to 2 :** Women's Police Station near Police Quarters, Belagavi Taluk & District. **Sl. No. 3 :** Rayabaugh Police Station, Belagavi District.
Last date of Submission of Bid Documents & EMD Submission: **13th of March 2025, till 5pm**
Date & time of E-Auction: 14th of March 2025, 11 am to 1 pm
For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 20-02-2025

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority (Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/5252/Zen/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in General that my Client **Sri PREMKUMAR SWAYAMPRAKASH** S/o Late Sri K.A. Swayam Prakash, aged about 68 years, R/at No. 24/25/E, Asset Gardenia Enclave, Varthur Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru North, Bangalore - 560066, is the absolute owner of the property bearing site No. 724, formed in Binnamangala Layout II Stage, Ulsoor Post, Bengaluru - 560008, presently known as 9th Cross, 10th 'A' Main, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Binnamangala, Bangalore - 560 038, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet, consists of Ground and First Floor RCC Roofed Residential Building, wherein my client's father Late Sri K.A. Swayam Prakash had purchased the same from one Mr. G. Parasuraman under the Registered Sale Deed dated: 11-06-1969, vide Doc. No. 823/69-70, Book-1, Volume No.-1561, pages 159 to 163, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore, registered on 12.6.1969.

It is further inform to the Public that, in the month of February 1st while cleaning the house the Original Sale Deed Dated 12-10-1968, Original allotment Letter and Possession certificate issued by the BDA in respect of the aforesaid property has been misplaced / lost and inspite of his efforts, he was unable to trace the same, hence on 02.02.2025 he lodged a Police Complaint in Lost Article Report vide Lost Report bearing No. 1458550/2025 dated 02.02.2025 before the Crime Branch, Bangalore City Police.

The Public are therefore informed that if anybody find / found the above said Original Documents may please hand over to my client or to my office and further if anybody misuse the above original documents and any kind of dealing with respect of the Schedule Property, my client would not be responsible for said illegal transactions.

Sd/- C. PATTABHI RAMAN
Advocate, Pr & Pr Assocates,
No. 135, 18th Cross, Lakshmipuram, Ulsoor, Bengaluru - 560 008.
Mob: 9341233935
E-mail: prandpradvocates@gmail.com

KSSIDC KARNATAKA STATE SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer, Head Office, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-10.
Telephone: 080-2340 7011 to 25, E-mail : kssidcho@gmail.com / chiefengineerkssidc@gmail.com, Website:www.kssidc.co.in
No: ENGG:SE:ep-97:STP:D.pura:2024-25 Dt:19.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Two Tender Document System)

The Superintending Engineer on behalf of Managing Director, KSSIDC Ltd., through e-procurement system (e-procurement portal) invites Items rate tenders (Technical electronic document first and Financial electronic document second) from eligible contractors registered with KPWD,CPWD for the work detailed in the table below. Details of works are as follows vide notification No: **ENGG:SE:ep-97 :STP:D.pura:2024-25 Dt:19-02-2025.**

Sl. No	Name of the work	Approx. Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	**Construction of 100 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Industrial Estate Dodda-ballapura, Bengaluru Rural District.**	**78.95**	**1.58**

Tender shall be submitted along with EMD by logging in to KPP-portal **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation Limited). The document may be downloaded from **20.02.2025 from 17.00 hours onwards.**

Calendar of Events :

- Tender could be downloaded from **20.02.2025 from 17.00 hours onwards.**
- Date of Pre bid meeting at the office of Superintending Engineer on **25.02.2025 at 12.00 hours.**
- Last Date for Submission of Proposals is **07.03.2025 till 17.00 hours.**
- Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **10.03.2025 after 17.00 hours.**
- Date of Opening of Financial Proposals is **14.03.2025 or after Approval of Technical Proposals** through KPP Portal. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/CP/JA/5250/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Project-East)
Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building, 21st Floor, (PUB) M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No: EE/P-E/TEND/10/2024-25 Date: 21.02.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, (Project East Division), East Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/KPWD/ CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Emergency Relief Task Force Team to East Zonal Control Room in Ward No-167 Ashoknagara in Shanthinagara Sub Division for the year 2024-25. Approx. value of work : ₹ 99.97 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 1,99,940/-

Calendar of Events :(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **25.02.2025.** (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **06.03.2025** upto **4:00** pm (3) Date of opening of Technical Bid Tenders is **07.03.2025** after **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project East Division

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka, Kolar-563 103.
Website:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:bnuregevl@karnataka.gov.in
Date: 19.02.2025

E-tender Notification

The Registrar(Evl), Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the various Tenders listed belowas per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act,the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through the kppp portal and download the tender document from the website **http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13.02.2025**

(1) Printing and Suply of Question papers and OMR SHEETS pertaining to UG/PG examinations of 2025-26 Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, kolar- **Tender no: BNU/2024-25/IND0034.**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR (Evl)
Bengaluru North University
Tamaka, Kolar
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:486/KSMCA/2024-25

Judges' dilemma

Accountability and independence ought to be equally important for judges

The Lokpal's ruling that High Court judges are amenable to its jurisdiction and the Supreme Court order staying it on its own motion raise more than a mere question of law. The issue concerns both the independence of the judiciary and its accountability. That the Court, government law officers and senior advocates found the Lokpal's decision disturbing is understandable, as many believe that judicial independence will be undermined if judges of constitutional courts are made answerable to the Lokpal, even though they fall under the definition of 'public servant' under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The Lokpal view appears to be *prima facie* incorrect. There is nothing to suggest that superior court judges were ever considered to be under its remit. Last month, the Lokpal, headed by former Supreme Court judge, A.M. Khanwilkar, rejected a corruption complaint against a former Chief Justice of India (CJI) on the ground that the Lokpal Act, 2013, did not concern apex court judges and that its reference to "persons" who are members of any body or authority created by an Act of Parliament cannot be applied to the Supreme Court, an institution established by the Constitution. However, in respect of High Court judges, it said High Courts established by statutes creating the respective States were statutory bodies, and their judges were "persons" within the meaning of Section 14 of the Lokpal Act.

The independence of the judiciary was the foremost consideration when the Court held in *K. Veeraswami vs Union of India* (1991) that no case can be registered against them without consulting the CJI, even though it also said judges were public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Based on this principle, the Lokpal has referred the complaint to the CJI. While the Lokpal ruling is set to be reviewed, the time may have come to address the issue of accountability in the rare event of a credible corruption charge arising against a judge. The matter is now dealt with by the Court through an in-house procedure, initiated only if the Chief Justice of a High Court, or the CJI or the President receives a complaint. If the charges appear true, asking the judges concerned to resign, denying them judicial work or recommending their removal through Parliament are the options available. Some judges are transferred from one High Court to another, but whether a corruption charge is the reason is never disclosed. The Court should see if the present mechanism is enough or it needs to be expanded to include credible follow-up action such as an independent prosecution under its supervision. Both accountability and independence ought to be equally important for the judiciary.

Southern discomfort

Delegated legislation from the Centre should not override States' plenary laws

With less than a week for the UGC's deadline to submit feedback on its draft regulations on the appointment and promotion of university teachers and Vice-Chancellors (V-C), States ruled by parties other than the BJP have ratcheted up their opposition. At a conclave in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka challenged the regulations, saying they would undermine the federal structure, diminish the powers of State legislatures, and weaken the autonomy of State universities. This is the second such conclave, with a previous meeting in Bengaluru including the governments of Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand, and expressions of solidarity from Punjab. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the main Opposition parties are also supportive of the stances of the ruling parties there; some regional parties that belong to the BJP-led NDA have reportedly expressed their concerns in private. A key concern is the UGC's proposal to play an enhanced role in the selection and appointment of V-Cs of State universities. Under the new regulations, the search-cum-selection committees will comprise nominees of the Chancellor (usually the Governor in State universities), the UGC Chairman, and the University syndicate or senate, neatly cutting out State Higher Education departments which were responsible for setting up these expert panels. The Chancellor will appoint the V-C from the list of three to five names shortlisted by the selection committee. UGC chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar has argued that the proposed structure "eliminates ambiguity and ensures a more transparent process", but States oppose the centralisation of power, leaving many State universities leaderless, especially in Tamil Nadu.

Apart from the allegation that the new regulations will dilute academic standards, increase commercialisation and politicisation, and reduce access to higher education for poor and disadvantaged students, the States have asked why they are being sidelined in university administration even while they continue to bear most of the financial costs for State-run higher education. Beyond higher education, there is a larger constitutional issue of Centre-State relations at stake: can delegated legislation such as the rules and regulations framed by the Union government and its agencies in the executive branch under a central law override the provisions of a plenary State law passed by a State legislature? The opposing States plan to send a high-level delegation to the Union Education Ministry and challenge the regulations in court, indicating a political and legal escalation of the issue. The UGC must not ignore this plethora of concerned voices and should remove anti-federal provisions from its draft before notifying the new regulations.

Converting court case backlogs into treasure troves

Sriram Panchu

is a senior advocate and Founder President, Mediators India

Every Chief Justice of India coming into office has the spectre of the legal system's backlog haunting him or her, as does every senior and concerned member of the higher judiciary. It is an ever present phenomenon – currently, the Supreme Court of India has 82,000 cases, the High Courts over 62 lakh, and the lower courts close to five crore. Nearly 50 lakh cases have been pending for more than 10 years.

It is an adversarial system

It is not that our judges are not hard working or efficient; the great majority of them are. But we are a country with a vast population that is used to thinking that the court will resolve disputes with whoever it may be – neighbour, shareholder, supplier, government, *et al*. We have one of the lowest judge to population ratios – 21 judges for every million citizens. And we rely on the adversarial system which means that virtually every case sees multiple interim applications during its passage, and plural appeals after the first passage is crossed. We also have shortages of infrastructure and capacity, in terms of brick and mortar, and finance and human resources. Just keeping the judiciary going on functional mode is a Herculean task – so daunting by itself that reform and restructure, while certainly the subject of well meaning and some well-thought-out initiatives, rarely gain the prominence and push to make for system game-changing.

Data governance is one field where sensible classification will avoid repetitive engagement and make for quicker disposal. Appointing retired judges to serve in ad hoc capacity does help to ameliorate the situation to a limited extent. Wider perspective solutions would require a focus on large swathes of litigation, for example, landlord tenant disputes and cheque bouncing cases, to see whether tweaking the law can make it less than advantageous to have the matter taken to court. Compensatory or even punitive costs are commonly used abroad to deter frivolous or unnecessary litigation. We use them rarely since we prize access to justice and want to avoid roadblocks.

The legal system's haunting backlog is a problem with a solution – India needs to look at mediation

The elephant in the room is of course the government. Being a player in nearly half the disputes coming to court, reform will be stunted unless it learns to litigate less and becomes more amenable to settlement options. There is hope on this latter score, but for now, we move to another possibility for reform.

This is the gigantic backlog, the enormous waiting room, with its cavernous vaults and storage shelves and racks bursting with the claims for redress and justice of millions of citizens and causes. Long stay here is by itself denial of justice. Sometimes when the case is dusted for delivery to the judge's table, the cause is forgotten or less crucial, or the original proponents are in another world, hopefully a litigation free one. But it is this spectre of unfinished business, a too obvious sign of failure of delivery, that haunts judges. There is nothing good about the backlog.

The pitch for mediation

But there may be. Unlikely as this may sound at first, this may be yet another instance of a problem masking a solution. Let us consider the process of mediation. Nascent and fledgling in the 1990s, mediation started to make its mark in 2005 in India, primarily as an adjunct of the court sector. Lawyer led and judge guided, it provided the opportunity for disputants to sit with a trained neutral, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, with no one imposing a result; just a bit of guidance and nudging to make the parties come up with options for a practical, fair and mutually acceptable solution. A focus on long-term interests, some legal realism and a dose of the rather grim alternatives to settlement propel the shift from attacking the other to jointly attacking the problem. The cases come from a swathe of civil and commercial, personal and property, and matrimonial and mercantile disputes.

The results are encouraging. So too is the ready adoption by the Bar of this alternative (now christened as appropriate) method of dispute resolution, as witnessed by the thousands of willing mediators. It has now to move to full-fledged professional avenues, drawing in better usage from business, government and other disputants, and in the process, providing gainful remuneration to practitioners of this new vocation. But certainly, mediation has caught on in the judicial system, and there is hardly any judge who does not speak of its merits and how it is the way of the future.

Getting it to work

So, to get to the point, finally. For the judge the backlog is a burden. For the mediator, it is a treasure trove. In front of us, or rather hidden in courtly dungeons, are the hundreds of cases which just have to be assigned to mediators to handle. And the mediators are there in sufficient numbers and backed by years of experience. All it needs is a simple system of primary identification of these cases, asking parties to choose their mediator or assigning them a trained and experienced one, and ensuring that a reasonable fee is paid for the service. When you compare the cost of mediating a case, for the system and for the parties, it is a fraction of litigating that case. You do not need vast logistical and administrative infrastructure, and you are saved multiple hearings spread over indeterminable time spans. Most cases in mediation take just a handful of sessions; complex ones take more but this is nothing when compared to the boxes of litigative papers to deal with and the swallowing up of calendars. And when it works, the results achieved in mediation outweigh by far anything you can get in litigation – not just a practical solution which both parties accept, but often a restoration of relationships.

So, perhaps it is time we take the keys, rechristen our chamber of horrors as the birthing place for mediations, and apply the principle by which mediators live and work – turning the problem into the opportunity for solution.

The U.S. visit, viewed through industry's business lens

Chandrajit Banerjee

is Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brief and official working visit to the United States last week was significant in many ways, reiterating the strong bonds between the two nations and igniting a new momentum in the economic relationship. The visit was replete with productive outcomes for industry of both sides, with major announcements across trade, defence, technology and energy.

From the perspective of Indian industry, the initiatives announced are likely to help India itself integrate more deeply into global supply chains, boost its technology and innovation attainments, and drive its participation in the defence industrial sector.

Towards a trade push

First, it is a pivotal decision that there was an initiation of the first phase of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) to reduce trade barriers and streamline regulatory processes. Such an agreement would encourage United States companies to invest in India which would include the purposes of plugging India into their supply chains. The $500 billion trade target by 2030 is ambitious but possible, potentially with sectoral sub-targets and easier cross-border procedures.

Several measures have already been taken to address tariffs on both sides. The mention of exporting industrial goods from the U.S. to India and labour-intensive products from India to the U.S. as well as agricultural products highlights that exports from both sides would be encouraged. This is supported by the intention to encourage greenfield investments, including by Indian companies in the U.S.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) had endorsed this target in its report in 2020, and believes that sectors such as IT, pharma, garments and textiles, among several others, would gain from the joint commitment to Mission 500.

While the U.S. market is already relatively open to Indian exports, a well-structured BTA would be mutually beneficial, particularly if it facilitates greater U.S. investment and technology transfers to India.

The Prime Minister's brief visit and the announcements made will add momentum to the India-U.S. economic relationship

A technology, defence and energy focus

Second, the U.S.-India Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST) underscores the deepening strategic and technological partnership between the two nations and opens further avenues for private sector cooperation with their governments and academia. With a range of sectors identified such as defence, artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, energy, and space, TRUST will help foster closer innovation and technology partnerships with U.S. tech giants. Additionally, the INDUS Innovation initiative aims to accelerate research and development in cutting-edge sectors.

India is emerging as a key player in the AI economy and the U.S.-India Roadmap on AI Infrastructure is expected to attract investments in data centres, computing power and AI models. This initiative could enhance funding opportunities for Indian startups in AI and encourage significant investments in areas such as fintech, healthtech, agritech and other developmental solutions, not just for India but also for the Global South.

Third, defence sector initiatives reinforce the India-U.S. strategic partnership through expanded technology transfers, joint production, and industrial collaboration. The launch of a 10-year Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership this year signifies a transformative shift in bilateral defence ties. Agreements were reached for the co-production of various systems which can promote indigenous manufacturing, skill development, and economic growth. With a potential for offset clauses, Indian industry can gain hugely from the defence agreements announced during the visit.

Fourth, energy cooperation was another critical area of discussion, with a focus on establishing long-term strategic linkages as India seeks to diversify its energy sources. The leaders underscored the importance of increasing hydrocarbon production to enhance global energy stability and affordability. India's Union Budget 2025-26 commits to collaborating with the private sector on the development of small modular reactors (SMRs), wherein U.S. companies will play a vital role in advancing this capability. Given India's ambitious net-zero targets, the U.S., with its vast natural gas reserves, can serve as a reliable energy supplier, strengthening India's energy security.

Fifth, the two countries have pledged to further the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) through joint infrastructure projects. With both countries entering into plurilateral arrangements in these regions, infrastructure creation could be fast-tracked, with possible spin-offs for the participation of Indian industry in railways, roadways, smart cities and industrial zones. The mention of undersea cables connecting India and the U.S. would give impetus to India's digital economy and services exports as well.

Links in higher education

Sixth, on education, the leaders decided to boost higher education institutional cooperation, which includes setting up of campuses by leading U.S. educational institutions in India. This would bring comfort to Indian students. Legal mobility is expected to be streamlined as well.

Indian industry is committed to working with both governments to maintain this momentum, advocating pro-business policies and ensuring industry feedback in implementation. With collaborative spirit and sustained reform, the benefits of this visit can be fully realised, positioning India's economy on a high-growth trajectory. In sum, Mr. Modi's U.S. visit, viewed through industry's business lens, is more than a diplomatic success. It is a blueprint for India to leverage global partnerships in becoming an economic powerhouse, innovating and prospering in tandem with its strategic ally.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election aid allegations

The truth about U.S. President Donald Trump's statement, about a $21 million USAID grant in a bid to "get someone else elected", citing the ostensible reason of 'boosting voter turnout' in India, is shrouded in obscurity and opacity. As ordinary people, we do not understand the correlation between voter turnout and election results proving advantageous or disadvantageous to parties. Of crucial importance is when and to whom the money was given. This revelation could be Mr. Trump's way of ingratiating himself into the good books of the government of the day, without slackening his harsh stand on tariffs and immigration involving Indian nationals, apart from showing the Biden administration in a bad light. On its part, the ruling party at the Centre seems to have accepted Mr. Trump's 'disclosure' as 'gospel truth' and gone to town by saying that it has vindicated its leader's claim of a foreign-funded plot to prevent his return to power. Mr. Trump should share the details of the 'funding' not just with the government but also with the people.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Foreign intervention in any form is deplorable and the people have the right to know where the money went and who the beneficiaries are. As usual while the Bharatiya Janata Party has blamed non-governmental organisations aligning with the Congress to influence elections in India, the Congress has sought a white paper from the government detailing USAID funds to government and non-governmental institutions. Transparency is needed in this issue.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

The remarks made by Mr. Trump highlight the broader issue of foreign interference in our democracy. The people need to know the truth without any biased reporting.

Nikhisha T.S.,
Chavakkad, Thrissur, Kerala

AAP and change in Delhi

The BJP's crusade to wrest Delhi from the Aam Aadmi Party found success with the decade-old AAP faltering on cadre strength. Yet, AAP must be credited for winning the previous two Delhi elections by astounding margins and staying in power for 10 years. This was no mean achievement given an adversarial Centre and a very bureaucratic Lieutenant-Governor. Even more remarkable is that AAP won Punjab. AAP was the first to prop up the middle class with 'some free facilities'. The BJP that had constantly trolled it for this would now elevate it to an obligation. It is the same formula that helped the BJP in Madhya Pradesh and in Maharashtra. AAP, a small outfit, was ahead of the times to emerge as a patron of the middle class. It will not be forgotten in a hurry.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Programmes and content

There should be a stronger code of ethics for online content and over-the-top streaming services. This code should prohibit the use of abusive language in programmes broadcast live, a dress code and also marking certain dialogues and scenes as adult content. Hosts should be role models and lead by example.

Janardhan Nandkumar,
Coimbatore

In Dubai

Team India has begun its innings in the Champions Trophy in style against Bangladesh. Shubman Gill's century helped the team to navigate itself to victory on a pitch that was unpredictable. His patient and meticulous batting performance showcases his calibre, and pitches him as a player who can be relied upon in all three formats. As Team India continues its pursuit, this young batsman can definitely contribute a lot more.

M. Pradyu,
Kannur, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in the first paragraph of an article, "Manipur is in need of `greater common good' politics" (Editorial page, February 20, 2025), should have said: "The State Assembly, however, has not been dissolved but kept in suspended animation'...", and not 'animated suspension'.

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A candlelight protest in Bhubaneswar over the death of a a student from Nepal. PTI

A death in hostel and a campus on the boil

On February 16, a female student from Nepal was found dead in her hostel room at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in Bhubaneswar. When protests demanding justice for her grew on campus, the university evicted more than 500 Nepali students, prompting a response from the Nepali Prime Minister and nearly triggering a diplomatic crisis. **Satyasundar Barik** reports on the incident and the ongoing protests

Trigger warning: The following article has references to suicide. Please avoid reading if you feel distressed by the subject.

On the morning of February 17, Pankaj Yadav, a 19-year old student, was fast asleep in his hostel room at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) when he heard aggressive knocks on the door. He was startled to see the administrative staff of the university standing outside. He says they instructed him to pack his belongings and leave the campus in five minutes.

The first-year BTech student at KIIT in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, says he was not involved in the events that had unfolded on campus the previous evening, but he was still having to face the consequences. "I was told to go home, but it felt like I was being sent on exile," he says.

On February 16, a 20-year-old Nepali student, Prakriti Lamsal, was found dead in her room. Angry students began protesting on campus, demanding justice for her and alleging that the university had ignored complaints of harassment. When tensions escalated, the university evicted more than 500 Nepali students.

Yadav says he was unceremoniously dropped off at the Cuttack railway station, 30 kilometres away from campus, by a university bus and left to fend for himself. "I stood cramped inside the general compartments of multiple trains for more than 50 hours," he says about his harrowing journey back home to Rajbiraj, a town in Nepal's Madhesh province. "I waited at three railway stations, exhausted and hungry. I also spent one cold night at a friend's place at Jogbani in Bihar on the India-Nepal border. My only fault is that I am Nepali," he says.

> I stood cramped inside multiple trains for more than 50 hours. My only fault is that I am Nepali.
>
> **PANKAJ YADAV**
> Student from Nepal

The administration's behaviour was "atrocious," says Sanghamitra Jena of the All India Students' Federation, which lent support to the KIIT students' protest. "Instead of offering solace to the students who were agitated by the loss of one of their own, the authorities resorted to a heavy-handed approach," she says.

Even as videos of students being evicted appeared online, a video clip allegedly showing two faculty members making derogatory comments about Nepali students went viral online. These events triggered a response from Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, who took to X on February 17 to express concern over the incident. The university immediately backtracked on its decision to evict the students and removed the faculty members. The Odisha government swung into action and said that justice would be served in the case. But the protests did not abate.

On February 21, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said that the Indian government "accords high priority to the safety, security, and well-being of all international students in the country." The MEA had constantly been in touch with the Odisha government since the matter came to light, he said.

A concert and a death

KIIT, a deemed-to-be university, was founded in 1992-93 as an industrial training institution and has now grown into an academic township of 36 sq km. Its 25 lush green campuses are home to more than 3,000 faculty members, researchers, and 15,000 staff. It has a 40,000-strong student community. Of them, 2,000 are foreigners from 65 countries. More than half the foreign students are Nepali and stay in four hostels on campus.

On the afternoon of February 16, the mood was upbeat on campus, say students. Most of them were dancing to rapper Badshah's performance at the university's annual festival. It was around this time that Lamsal, a third-year BTech student of computer science, withdrew to the quiet of her room in Queen's Castle-4 hostel, claims her friend, who has been protesting continuously on campus since. "A male batchmate had repeatedly abused her, which we believe pushed her to a breaking point," she says.

At around 4.30 p.m., Siddhant Sigdel, Lamsal's cousin, a third-year BTech student of KIIT, received a phone call. The caller told him that Lamsal had died by suicide and asked him to rush to the casualty ward of the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, a medical college of the KIIT Group, says the First Information Report which was filed based on a complaint lodged by Sigdel. "At around 5 p.m. in Nepal, I got a call from KIIT that my daughter had passed away," says Lamsal's father, Sunil Lamsal, while he waits in AIIMS Bhubaneswar for the post-mortem to be completed.

Phones buzzed incessantly as the news of her death spread like wildfire. "Many of us were trying to process what had happened and a sense of solidarity took hold," says Kunal Dhami (name changed), a second-year BTech student, who was on his way to Nepal following eviction from the university and spoke to *The Hindu* over phone.

Family members of Prakriti Lamsal grieve her death in Bhubaneswar. PTI

"We began to congregate at KIIT's International Relations Office, which oversees the affairs of foreign students," Dhami continues. "Indian students and students from other countries also joined us. All we asked for was a thorough and impartial investigation into her death."

In his complaint, Sigdel told the police that Lamsal was being tormented by a batch mate, Advik Srivastava. The police tracked Srivastava down at the Biju Patnaik International Airport the same evening and are now interrogating him.

Despite the prompt action of the police, the students remained unconvinced and unhappy. "When we previously approached the Infocity Police Station with a complaint regarding a fight between two groups of students, they informed the university authorities and refused to register our complaint. The university then hushed things up," alleges Sujit (name changed), a second-year student of mechanical engineering.

Bijan (name changed), another student, says the university was trying to "suppress the protests". He says, "It seemed like they were trying to tamper with evidence to protect the institution's carefully cultivated reputation."

The students continued to demand that law-enforcement agencies secure Lamsal's laptop and mobile phone. By then, an audio clip purportedly featuring a conversation between Srivastava and Lamsal surfaced on social media. It showed the man, who is allegedly Srivastava, abusing a woman, allegedly Lamsal. The words were incomprehensible, but the tone was clearly abusive, say students. "The audio made us even more angry," says one of the protesting students.

Things come to a head

By the night of February 16, tensions had reached a boiling point. The founder of KIIT, Achyut Samanta, went to pacify the students and urged them to return to their hostels. But the crowd stood firm, show videos in the public domain.

Students say the campus then descended into chaos. "The university hired bouncers, who came down on us. Some students were chased down the campus and beaten black and blue. Some students received injuries and had blood stains on their shirts," says a Nepali student.

While tempers ran high, two faculty members, Jayanti Nath and Manjusha Pandey, made "racist remarks" at a girls' hostel, say students. "One of them bluntly told us to leave KIIT. It was humiliating when she said that the amount spent by the university on students' welfare was more than Nepal's GDP," says a Nepali student. The students recorded the altercation and the videos went viral on social media, sparking outrage.

Yadav says he forgot to have dinner in the midst of these events and went back to hostel. "The next morning, I was asked to leave. When some of my classmates tried to ask the administration why they were being bundled off, they were attacked. The university staff was also busy trying to delete the videos of the previous night's fiasco," he says.

Bijan says everyone quickly collected their laptops and mobile phones and boarded the university buses parked outside hostels. The women were given two hours to leave campus, he says.

By then KIIT had issued a notice that read, "The university is closed *sine die* for all international students from Nepal. They are hereby directed to vacate the university campus immediately today on 17th February, 2025."

Anil Pradhan, a Bhubaneswar-based education activist, asks why the people of one nationality were singled out during the unrest. However, KIIT justified the move. Shyam Sundar Beura, Additional Registrar of KIIT University, says, "The entire protest was led by Nepali students. The entire incident revolved around Nepali students. So the *sine die* notice mentioned only them."

The sudden eviction led to an uproar. "How can they ask us to suddenly catch a train or flight to Nepal at such short notice? Many students had no money. For hours, we sat at the Cuttack Railway Station to board the next train to Kolkata, so that we could consider our next options there," says Arjun Adhikari (name changed), a first-year BTech student who has gone back home to Biratnagar, Nepal. He adds that some students went to Delhi, some to West Bengal, and some others to Bihar. Many students went to relatives' homes.

> It is the university's duty to inform parents/guardians if the students are facing a crisis. They left her alone to deal with the situation. They failed in their duty.
>
> **SUNIL LAMSAL**
> Prakriti's father

Hearing of the attacks and eviction, Nepali citizens staged demonstrations in front of the Indian embassy in Kathmandu. Prime Minister Oli took note. "Our embassy in New Delhi has dispatched two officers to counsel Nepali students affected in Odisha. Additionally, arrangements have been made to ensure they have the option to either remain in their hostel or return home, based on their preference," he wrote on X.

Perhaps realising that this could spiral into a diplomatic crisis, the university issued an apology. It said, "We are also regretful of the way some of us behaved with the agitating students. We love them as much as we love the people of India and the people of the world. Additionally, we are again appealing our Nepali students to join the regular academics with immediate effect."

Nath and Pandey issued apologies online. Nath said, "My intention was never to offend, defame and demean anyone. I deeply regret if it has caused unintended hurt anyone. My words were directly instigated by statements during the protest where my country and institution were called corrupt and poor." Pandey said she had made the remarks in the spur of the moment.

However, these expressions of regret have failed to cut ice with the students, who insist that the two faculty members, who have been removed from service, must apologise publicly in front of students. They intensified their protests on February 18 and 19.

A plea and no heed

The Mohan Majhi government in Odisha has set up a high-level committee, chaired by the State Home Secretary, Satyabrata Sahu, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the alleged death by suicide. The committee has also been tasked with examining claims of high-handedness by university authorities, the rationale behind issuing notices to a specific group of students, and the university's decision of February 17 to close the institute for them. The committee summoned the founder, Samanta, for questioning.

Two ministers, along with the State Chief Secretary, met with Nepalese consular officials to discuss the safety and academic future of Nepali students. Majhi also said justice would be served and urged Nepalese students to return to India. However, the issue rocked the Odisha Legislative Assembly for the last three days, with MLAs from the ruling party and the Opposition demanding stringent action against the university.

Meanwhile, Lamsal's relatives, who travelled to Bhubaneswar to claim her body, say she was bright and wanted to excel in the field of technology. They also say she was soft-spoken, talented, and loved by friends and teachers.

While performing the 13-day-long rituals following her death, Sunil Lamsal spoke about his daughter's life and ambitions. "Even as a child, my daughter was a brilliant student. She graduated from school with good grades. Since many students from our municipality were studying at KIIT, we explored the university's website and found that it had impressive infrastructure. So, we decided to send her there," he says. He saw her last a month and half ago in Nepal.

Prakriti Lamsal had registered a complaint with the International Relations Office. Shradhanali Nayak, KIIT's Director of Public Relations, says, "The girl had verbally reported experiencing mental harassment. The administration acted on her complaint and suspended the students involved for a month." When asked who the "students" were, he gave no response.

However, Sunil Lamsal says the institute did not inform him about the harassment. "It is their duty to inform parents/guardians if the students are facing a crisis. They left her alone to deal with the situation. They failed in their duty," he says.

The grief-stricken father is hoping that his daughter will get justice. "No other family should go through what I am going through," he says.

In an apparent attempt to salvage its tarnished image, on February 19, KIIT announced a special scholarship for Nepali students in Prakriti Lamsal's name. "This initiative will ensure that many more talented students like her have the opportunity to pursue their education without hurdles," says Samanta.

But the announcement has done little to reassure the students. A Nepali student says, "On February 17, the authorities instructed us to vacate the hostel rooms in a humiliating manner, as if we hadn't paid for the facilities. They left us stranded at the railway station. Now, under immense diplomatic pressure to accommodate us, the authorities, including teachers, have begun calling us frequently and urging us to return to campus. They can't decide to keep us when it suits them and throw us out when it does not," she says.

"I will need at least 15 days to decide whether I want to go back," says Pankaj, who is at home in Nepal. "I did not pay a hefty fee to be treated like this."

satyasundar.b@thehindu.co.in

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can seek help and counselling by calling Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health. Telephone: 011-40769002 (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

From Page One

U.S. aid allegations 'deeply troubling': MEA

The MEA also would not comment on a media report that suggested the information shared by DOGE was false, as the USAID funding had been sent to Bangladesh, not India.

'Looking into the matter'

Mr. Jaiswal said that "relevant departments and agencies are looking into this matter," and their reports were awaited.

In its post, the DOGE said that "U.S. taxpayer dollars were going to be spent on the following items, all of which have been cancelled," including "$486M to the 'Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening' [CEPPS], including $22M for 'inclusive and participatory political process' in Moldova and $21M for voter turnout in India".

While the DOGE has not furnished any details of what this "voter turnout" funding was meant for, it named CEPPS, funded by USAID, as the donor agency to India. Both the USAID and CEPPS websites have been taken down since the DOGE ordered a "freeze" on USAID activities.

Data still available online, however, indicates that USAID has allocated about $650 million to India since 2020, about one-fifth of its total funding to India of $2.86 billion since 2001.

The MEA declined to respond to a specific question from *The Hindu* about whether these partnerships would now be reviewed, saying "it would be premature to make a public comment at this stage".

'India, China worked hard to protect G-20'

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the two leaders "reviewed developments in a bilateral relationship since their last meeting in November" on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Brazil.

They specifically discussed the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, trans-border river talks, flight connectivity, and facilitation of travel.

The references to the multilateral organisations by Mr. Jaishankar were also pointed, given U.S. President Donald Trump's recent attack on the BRICS grouping of emerging economies, saying it was "dead", as well as U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's boycott of the G-20 meeting in South Africa.

Mr. Jaishankar has also met leaders of other BRICS founder members, including South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Viera in Johannesburg. While South Africa is hosting the G-20 summit later this year, Brazil will host the BRICS summit, both of which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend.

Stalin, Pradhan spar over language provision

Mr. Stalin's reaction came in response to Mr. Pradhan's letter to him earlier in the day, urging the State government to "rise above politics" and prioritise policies that empower students.

Mr. Pradhan had argued that Tamil Nadu's continued opposition to the NEP "for political reasons" deprived students of immense opportunities.

Accusing the Centre of trying to promote Hindi in the guise of development of vernacular language, Mr. Stalin said, "You are accusing us of doing politics over the NEP. But it is the Centre which is doing politics by promoting Hindi in a country where people speak different languages. You play politics with language and religion and then accuse others." Warning the Centre not to trigger the sentiments of Tamils, Mr. Stalin said, "Don't throw stones at a beehive and also don't prompt Tamils to show their distinct traits. I will not allow efforts to impose Hindi in Tamil Nadu." "In true federal concept, the Union government should be happy that Tamil Nadu was fast progressing. But unfortunately, it was refusing to allot funds which are rightfully due to the State," Mr. Stalin said.

The Union Minister pointed out that many States have implemented the progressive policies of the NEP despite political differences.

Armies of India, Pakistan hold talks

The Indian Army on February 16 accused the Pakistani Army of resorting to "small arms firing" on an Indian post. According to the Pakistani newspaper, *Dawn*, two Pakistani soldiers were injured in "an unprovoked ceasefire violation by Indian troops in the Deva and Bagsar sectors" on February 12.

Besides the cross-border firing, the Jammu region witnessed over six skirmishes on the LoC in Jammu, Rajouri, and Poonch districts in the past two months, which included sniper attackstoo.

Two soldiers, including a Captain, were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED), and at least two other soldiers were hit by snipers. It remains "inconclusive if the Pakistani Army or the militants" were involved in these attacks. Two infiltrators were also killed in this period in Poonch.

India an emerging global powerhouse, says Modi

PM highlights the need for world-class governance and policy making, says the country needs to prepare leadership for emerging sectors like deep-tech, space, biotech, and renewable energy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called India an emerging global powerhouse that required world-class leaders who can find solutions to global needs and complexities in every sector.

At the same time, these leaders must keep the country's interest at the forefront for an accelerated growth momentum, he added.

At the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL) conclave, Mr. Modi said institutions like SOUL could prove to be game changers in this regard. He said India needed energetic and solution-oriented leaders whose approach would be global, but an important part of their thinking would also be local.

"We have to prepare such individuals, who move ahead with an Indian mind, understanding the international mindset, those who are always ready for strategic decision-making, crisis management, and futuristic thinking. If we have to compete in international markets, in global institutions, then we need such leaders who understand international business dynamics," he said.

Game changer: Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the first edition of SOUL conclave, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

"In the times to come, leadership will not be limited to just power. Only those who have the capabilities of innovation and impact will be in the leadership roles. Individuals of the country will have to emerge according to this need. SOUL will be an institution that develops critical thinking, risk-taking, and solution-driven mindset in these individuals. In the times to come, such leaders will emerge from this institution who will be ready to work amidst disruptive changes," he said.

"In the coming times, when we will promote a new leadership from diplomacy to tech innovation, then India's influence and impact will increase manifold in all these sectors... We have to make our governance and policy making world-class. This will be possible only when our policymakers, bureaucrats, and entrepreneurs are able to frame their policies by linking them with global best practices," said Mr. Modi.

"We have to prepare leadership for many emerging sectors like deep-tech, space, biotech, and renewable energy. Leadership has to be created for conventional sectors like sports, agriculture, manufacturing, and social service. We not only have to aspire excellence in every sector, but also achieve it," he said, emphasising the importance of building well-equipped human resources to achieve the goal of a developed India.

"When any country progresses, natural resources have their own role, but human resources have an even bigger role than that," he said, pointing out that Gujarat emerged as a top State due to its leadership driven by its human capital despite the lack of sufficient natural resources.

Stating that the bond forged by a shared purpose leads to the development of leadership and team spirit, the Prime Minister said: "When we move forward with a common goal and collective effort, the results are extraordinary."

Mr. Modi thanked Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay for being present at the event, on the birthday of the King of Bhutan.

NMC's guidelines for disabled candidates arbitrary, rules SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A prescription such as 'both hands intact' reeks of ableism and has no place in a statutory regulation

The Supreme Court in a judgment on Friday found the National Medical Commission (NMC)'s eligibility conditions that candidates with disabilities must have "both hands intact, with intact sensation and sufficient strength" for admission to MBBS course arbitrary and antithetical to the Constitution.

"A prescription such as 'both hands intact' reeks of ableism and has no place in a statutory regulation. In fact, it has the effect of denuding the rights guaranteed under the Constitution and the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act and makes a mockery of the principle of reasonable accommodation," a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan held.

Justice Viswanathan, who authored the judgment, held that the view taken by the National Medical Commission (NMC) breached Article 41 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to work, education, and public assistance, and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. "It propagates that persons with typical abilities and with faculties similar to what the majority may have or somehow superior," Justice Viswanathan wrote.

Aced NEET

The Bench was hearing the case of a candidate who suffered from 50% locomotor disability and 20% speech and language disability who aspired to be a medical professional. The candidate had cleared the NEET with flying colours. However, an Assessment Board had found him ineligible to be a doctor due to his disability. The Punjab and Haryana High Court had also rejected his plea for relief.

"There cannot be a one size fits all approach," Justice Viswanthan observed, confirming the candidate's admission to Government Medical College, Sirohi, Rajasthan. The court directed NMC to revise its guidelines and report back on March 3.

Indian languages have always accepted and enriched each other without hostility: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The shared heritage of Indian languages is a befitting reply to those trying to create divisions: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the shared cultural heritage of Indian languages would give a befitting reply to those making efforts to create divisions in the country in the name of languages.

"Embracing all languages is our collective responsibility," he said, inaugurating the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan here. Indian languages had always accepted each other and enriched each other. "There has been no hostility among Indian languages," he said.

The Prime Minister's remarks come amid a war of words between the Tamil Nadu government and the Centre over the implementation of the National Education Policy and the three-language formula.

Linguistic diversity

India was one of the world's oldest living civilisations because it had consistently evolved, embraced new ideas, and welcomed changes. India's vast linguistic diversity was a testament to this evolution and served as a fundamental basis for unity, the Prime Minister said.

He said that language embraced every idea and every development.

"Marathi has borrowed literature from all Indian languages and has in return enriched them as well. Indian languages have always enriched each other."

"That is why we are looking at every language in the country as a mainstream language. We are encouraging education in all languages, including Marathi," he said.

Among those who spoke at the event were Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Nationalist Congress Party (SP) leader Sharad Pawar.

Pawar says he managed the lone vote that brought down the Vajpayee govt. in 1999

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Referring to the no-confidence motion brought against the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999, NCP(SP) president Sharad Pawar said that he had managed that one vote in favour of the Opposition, which had brought down the Vajpayee government at that time.

"For one year, I was the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. It was Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government in the Centre. We had proposed a no-confidence motion at that time. The motion was passed too. We won it by one vote, I won't tell you whose. We tabled the proposal. There was a discussion over it. And then, there was a break for 10 minutes. In those 10 minutes, I went out and spoke to someone. After I came back, one person from the government took a different decision. And the government came down due to that one vote. At that time, the responsibility of the Leader of the Opposition was with me," Mr. Pawar said while launching a book at a private event in New Delhi on Thursday.

Sharad Pawar

Shiv Sena UBT leaders Sanjay Raut and Anil Desai were among those present on the dais at the time of the speech.

BJP Maharashtra leaders hit back at Mr. Pawar on Friday, on a day the leader shared stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. BJP leader Atul Bhatkhalkar challenged Shiv Sena UBT leaders to speak against Mr. Pawar on the fall of the Vajpayee government. "It was Balasaheb Thackeray who had supported the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government," he said.

U.P. SIT submits chargesheets on Sambhal violence

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Uttar Pradesh Police has submitted chargesheets running into 4,400 pages in six cases related to the Sambhal violence.

One of the chargesheets mentioned Shariq Satha, a native of Sambhal and a fugitive car thief operating from the United Arab Emirates, as the mastermind behind the violence.

The chargesheets were based on six first information reports (FIR) related to the violence filed at two police stations. The chargesheets mentioned 79 accused, all currently in jail, and invoked multiple Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against them. Officials said more chargesheets would be filed as the investigation progressed.

Police with a man who has been arrested for allegedly supplying weapons. PTI

Seven FIRs have been registered in relation to the violence, with names of prominent figures like Lok Sabha MP Ziaur Rahman Barq, MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son, Sohail Iqbal, mentioned in multiple FIRs, but not in the chargesheet.

Sambhal witnessed violence on November 24 last year as five people died and several were injured in clashes.

Uttarakhand to tell HC why it sought personal details to register live-in relationships

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand government told the High Court on Friday that it would soon file an affidavit explaining why it sought details such as Aadhaar and information on previous relationships for registration of live-in couples under the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which was rolled out recently in the State.

There was a purpose behind seeking such information, the government said, adding that its aim was not to record anyone's personal details.

Challenged in petition

The government submission came in a petition filed in the High Court by one Samarth Aniruddha Bhagwat challenging the mandatory registration of live-in relationships under the UCC. The petition also challenged Form 3 of the UCC that sought information on the couple's previous relationships/live-in partners, decree of divorce, and so on, as well as their Aadhaar-based details.

Speaking in the court of Chief Justice G. Narendar and Justice Ashish Naithani, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for both Uttarakhand and the Union government, said he would file an affidavit explaining why such details were sought.

"I will look into it and will file an affidavit showing the relevance...the purpose is different. We don't want any personal or private details to be recorded. I will ensure that happens to your lordships' judicial satisfaction," Mr. Mehta submitted orally in the court.

The Solicitor-General also assured the petitioner's lawyer, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, that he "need not worry about fairness in details" as he was before the court.

Mr. Ramachandran informed the court that February 27 is a crucial date for live-in couples in Uttarakhand as that was the last date for their mandatory registration. The UCC came into effect on January 27 and couples had been given one month for registration. He also questioned the relevance behind collecting details of previous relations and Aadhaar information that contained biometrics.

The High Court had earlier sought a reply from the State and the Centre on this petition. The court also issued a notice on another plea filed by Razia Baig, a member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, who challenged the UCC on the grounds that it was against the Sharia law.

SC notice to U.P. on plight of madrasa students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Centre, Uttar Pradesh government and the State's Madrasa Board on a petition highlighting the plight of over 25,000 students of madrasas doing *fazil* (postgraduate) and *kamil* (undergraduate) courses, which were declared unconstitutional by the top court in November 2024 in a judgment.

The top court had found the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act of 2004, pertaining to the higher levels of *fazil* and *kamil*, in direct conflict with the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act.

However, the petition said the State government has done nothing to accommodate in or transfer these students to other educational institutions.

Centre to put more critical mineral mines on auction

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following the Cabinet approval for a ₹16,300-crore National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in January, India plans to auction more mines by 2031, Union Minister of State for Mines and Minerals Satish Chandra Dubey said on Friday.

Speaking at a meeting organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), he said the government had already auctioned 24 critical mineral blocks domestically. "We aim to auction as many critical mineral blocks as possible by 2031," he said.

He underlined that public-private partnerships were critical in achieving these objectives. "We must work as complementary partners and as a team to build a self-reliant India," he stated. The NCMM envisages a separate investment of ₹18,000 crore by public sector units.

While developing new mines is a major focus area, India's paucity of natural resources means that it has to shore up initiatives to extract valuable minerals from mine waste and reprocess tailings – the residue from crushed ores.

Tailings contain valuable amounts of critical materials, offering potential as a secondary source to enhance the supply and mitigate risks from increasing demand, said a report by FICCI and consulting firm Deloitte.

According to the report, India has domestic lithium resources of 12.3 million tonnes; nickel deposits of 189-194 million tonnes; cobalt 45 million tonnes; graphite 211-244 million tonnes; rare-earth elements resources of 230 million tonnes.

The challenges India face include the unavailability of quality reserves of cobalt, niobium, germanium, and rhenium. The absence of good quality exploration data results in weak investor interest, with 24 out of the 49 critical mineral blocks remaining unauctioned. India is also grappling with challenges in the economic extraction of critical minerals due to deposits being too deep to viably extract with the available technology.

BJP, Congress spar over USAID fund allocation

BJP dismisses report that claimed that the $21-million allocation in 2022 was for Bangladesh and not India; Congress alleges that the ruling party is using the narrative to 'divert attention'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Calling it a "cover-up attempt", the BJP on Friday dismissed a media report that the allocation of $21 million by the USAID in 2022 was for Bangladesh and not for India, and accused Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Congress party of being involved in "anti-India" activities.

The Congress, on the other hand, cited the news report published in an English daily to demand an apology from the BJP.

The Opposition party claimed that the BJP's narrative was aimed at diverting attention from its own use of foreign funds to destabilise Congress governments in the past.

At a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia cited the remarks of U.S. President Donald Trump and an X post by the Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency to assert that the fund allocation (since cancelled) was intended for "voter turnout in India".

Political rift: BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

"Since morning, the so-called fact checkers linked to the Gandhi family – who are also being funded – have been claiming that $21-million funding is not linked to India... their job is to propagate Rahul Gandhi's lies as truth," he said.

Mr. Bhatia accused the Congress leader and the party of acting as a "stimulus" for anti-India forces to interfere in the country's electoral process. "They cannot defeat Mr. Modi electorally, therefore they are banking on foreign forces," he said.

He said: "From 2004 to 2013, over $2,115 million funding was received by the Congress-led government. And, just $1.5 million came during Mr. Modi's term. This is because they know that Narendra Modi will not sell India's interests to any foreign power."

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged that the entire "$21-million USAID funds narrative" perpetrated by the BJP was done to divert attention from their "own sins" of using foreign funds to destabilise Congress governments of the past.

"Is it not true that on January 21, former Union Minister Smriti Irani attended a panel discussion organised by the USAID in Davos? Is it not true that Smriti Irani herself has stated that she has served as the USAID goodwill ambassador to India for four years?" he asked.

If collaborations with U.S. agencies amounted to deep state activities, then why did Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis discuss opportunities for a collaboration with the USAID on November 10, 2022, Mr. Khera asked.

Opposition criticises Home Ministry for inefficiency, flags underutilisation of funds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Home Ministry faced criticism for "inefficiency" during a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Friday, as Opposition members flagged the underutilisation of funds allocated for critical areas such as the Nirbhaya Fund for women safety schemes and prison modernisation. They also pointed out that there has been no significant budgetary allocation to conduct the long-overdue Census.

The panel headed by BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Agrawal is examining the 2025-26 Budget of the Home Ministry.

According to a source, MPs from the Trinamool Congress raised concerns over the underutilisation of Nirbhaya Fund, pointing out that nearly two-thirds of the amount had not been used. The Ministry uses this fund to implement projects that make cities safer for women. Similarly, for modernisation of prisons, the budgetary allocation for 2024-25 was ₹300 crore but only ₹75 crore was utilised.

Ajay Maken

The members also questioned the nearly 80% increase in the budget for "Border Infrastructure and Management", which saw an allocation of ₹5,597.25 crore in 2025-26, an increase of ₹1,840.74 crore from the ₹3,756.51 crore allocated last year. "No explanation was forthcoming as to what the government plans to do. For a State like ours which shares an extensive border with Bangladesh, we should be kept in the loop," a senior Trinamool Congress MP said.

The members also expressed concern over the absence of any significant allocation for conducting the Census. "The Census was due to be conducted in 2021, it is already long overdue. This year's Budget also shows that the government is not prepared to hold the Census. Not holding Census delays delimitation and therefore also implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill that the government passed with pomp and show," a senior Opposition leader said.

Congress MP Ajay Maken expressed concern over the high rate of crimes against women and children in the national capital and the Delhi Police's record on the pendency of cases. A BJP MP also urged the Home Ministry to review its decisions to maintain the barricades at the Singhu border in light of the farmers' protest.

In Rae Bareli, Rahul Gandhi targets BJP govt. over rising joblessness, inflation

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday, addressing a youth conference in Rae Bareli, described unemployment as the biggest problem for the youth in India, adding that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government had proved to be a complete failure in providing job opportunities.

"This is sheer injustice. We are continuously fighting for the youth, we will ensure justice for them," said Mr. Gandhi.

He accused the Narendra Modi-led BJP government of destroying small-scale industries through the wrong implementation of GST and demonetisation. "There are two issues facing India, unemployment and inflation, about which BJP does not talk. The BJP government of Uttar Pradesh has completely failed. Remove it, the youth will start getting employment," he added.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha went on to attack the Prime Minister for dismissing the Adani Group controversy as an "individual issue" during a recent press conference in the U.S. "Narendra Modi*ji*, this is not a personal matter. It is a matter of the country," Mr. Gandhi said, claiming that the group's founder, Gautam Adani, was facing charges of "corruption and theft" in the U.S.

"If he had genuinely been India's Prime Minister, he would have discussed the issue with and informed the U.S. that he would investigate it and, if necessary, send him (to the U.S.) for questioning. But he said it's a private issue," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi – on a two-day visit to his parliamentary constituency – interacted with students on Thursday and accused the BJP and its ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, of attempting to prevent people from learning English.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi
(email Id : se_sicpkd@yahoo.com)
"e" Procurement Notice No.- ACE,VNB-05/2024-25

Sl No	Bid I.D. No.	Name of Works	Approx.value of work (Rs.in Lakhs)	E.M.D./Bid Security Required (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Class of contractor.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	ACE, VNB(HID)-01/ 2024-25	Improvement to service road of Kadaguda Distributary from RD 00 m to 16770 m of Harabhangi Irrigation Project. (Balance work in between RD 00 to 16770 m.)	251.23	2,52,000/-	10000/-	8 (Eight) calendar months	"A & B" only
2	ACE, VNB(HID)-02/ 2024-25	Improvement to service road of left Distributary in between RD 00m to 15800 m of Harabhangi Irrigation Project. (Balance work in between RD 00 m to 15800 m.)	252.36	2,53,000/-	10000/-	8 (Eight) calendar months	"A & B" only
3	ACE, VNB(HID)-03/ 2024-25	Improvement to approach road from Gokulapur Diversion weir to H/R cum C/R of Right distributary of Harabhangi Irrigation Project.	235.29	2,36,000/-	10000/-	8 (Eight) calendar months	"A & B" only

1. Availability & submission of bids online : From 11.00 AM of 25.02.2025 to 5.00 PM of 12.03.2025.
2. Date of Opening of Technical Bids : 13.03.2025 at 11.00 AM. in the, O/O the Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
3. Procurement Officer : Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
4. Further details can be seen from Govt. Website www.tendersorissa.gov.in and any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation will be published in the said website.

Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
A-1089: OIPR-32417/11/0008/2425

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED
(Marketing Division)
Advertisement No. IOCL/MKTG/HO/REC/2025

All India Open Recruitment of Experienced Personnel in Non-Executive category & Special Recruitment Drive [SRD] for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities [PwBD] in Non-Executive category

Extension of date for submission of Application

Attention is invited to the advertisement issued in this newspaper on 3rd February, 2025 through which applications (in online mode) from eligible candidates were invited for the following posts:-

A) For All India Open Recruitment of Experienced Personnel in Non-Executive category:

Post Code	Grade	Name of Post	Total no. of Positions
101 to 123	Gd.-I	Junior Operator	**215**

B) Special Recruitment Drive [SRD] only for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities [PwBD] in Non-Executive category:

SRD - Posts Reserved only for PwBD			
Post Code	**Grade**	**Name of Post**	**Total no. of Positions**
201 to 204	Gd.-I	Junior Attendant	**23**
205 to 208	Gd.-III	Junior Business Assistant	**08**

The last date for submission for online application for the above posts has been extended till 23.55 hours of 28th February 2025.

To refer to the detailed advertisement and to apply online, visit website www.iocl.com, then go to 'IndianOil For You' > click on 'IndianOil For Careers' > 'Latest Job Opening' > 'Job Opening' > 'Recruitment of Non-Executive Personnel in Marketing Division-2025'.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ENERGY DEPARTMENT
Invitation of application for the post of Director (Operation) in Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC)

Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC), incorporated as a hydro power generating company of Odisha in 1995 is functioning under Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha. OHPC is an ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified Gold rated State Public Sector Undertaking with installed capacity of 2099.8 MW with 6 (six) projects within the State and one inter-State project. OHPC is also promoting investment in renewable energy projects and various green energy sources through GEDCOL (a wholly owned subsidiary of OHPC). The Company is also taking up new projects on its own including the Pumped Storage Projects and Small Hydro Projects.

The Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha is seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the post of **Director (Operation)** for Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) in its Corporate Office located at Bhubaneswar.

The pay will be Cost to Company (CTC) pattern and shall be in line with the industry. Performance based service conditions and Market Based Salary (MBS) structure will be offered in the range of Rs.35 Lakhs to Rs.70 Lakhs per annum.

Over and above this, the post carries additional facilities like official vehicle, Company accommodation/ HRA, Medical facilities, broadband & telephone facilities, etc as per the rules of the Corporation. The Pay protection will be allowed only to the officers coming from the Central/ State Governments/ CPSEs/ State PSUs or any other Government Organization.

This position is on full time contract basis for a period of 05 (five) years or up to the age of 63 years, whichever is earlier. The position is at the Board level and the incumbent shall report to the Managing Director/Chairman-cum-Managing Director of OHPC.

Detailed requirement for the position along with the application format is available in the Energy Department, Government of Odisha website **https://energy.odisha.gov.in**

Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Principal Secretary to Govt., Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Speed post/ Registered Post only to reach by 31.03.2025. Envelope containing the application should be super-scribed as **"Application for the post of Director (Operation), Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd., (OHPC)".**

Principal Secretary to Govt.
Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan,
Bhubaneswar-751001

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E - TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Chief Engineer, Transmission North, Kozhikode

E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_740454_1: PAC:Rs. 2,88,00,000/-, Last Date: 05.03.2025, 04.00 pm
O/o the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Wandoor, Malappuram

E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_740372_1: PAC:Rs. 2,67,65,838/-, Last Date: 05.03.2025, 04.00 pm
O/o the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Tirur, Malappuram

E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_740436_1: PAC:Rs. 1,67,77,714/-, Last Date: 10.03.2025, 05.00 pm
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Consultancy wing, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram

E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_739318_1: PAC:Rs. 76.92 Crores, Last Date: 12.03.2025, 03.00 pm
O/o the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Nilambur, Malappuram

E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_740561: PAC:Rs. 3,41,86,766/-, Last Date: 14.03.2025, 03.00 pm

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E543/E-tender/2025

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-I

No:e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/248736- (I) Dt: 21.02.2025

Refer to Tender No CMG/C/CON/248736 dated 29.01.2025 Name of work: **"(Package 2): Construction of Roads (Base Course), RCC box culverts, and other allied civil works at SSLV Launch complex (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District, Tamilnadu in EPC Mode-III"** (Est. cost Rs. 1183 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 28.02.2025.** Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SERVICES LTD.
CIASL/ENGG/28/2024-25 22-02-2025
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed percentage rate tenders are invited from reputed civil contractors/ agencies for the work mentioned below at Cochin International Aviation Services Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cochin International Airport Limited.

Name of Work	Estimated Amount (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
Construction of Hangar/ Covered Aircraft Parking Facility and Allied Works at CIASL. **(SH: Civil & plumbing works)**	23.08 Crores	23 Lakhs	8 Months

Agencies may submit their applications on or before **14/03/2025** for prequalification. For more details visit our website **www.ciasl.aero** or **www.cial.aero** Ph: 0484-2611785/ +91 9567621210.

Sd/-
Managing Director

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE,
INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender is invited for purchase of Four Core LT PVC Insulated and PVC Sheathed Armoured Cables Size 4Cx25 Sq.mm and 4Cx10 Sq.mm. under 2043 (UBN JVV2425GLOB01037).

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Bid Security, Processing Fees and Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at **www.jdvvnl.com** and also at **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/24/12044 **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)**
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012
IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2024-25 Date: 19.02.2025
Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-ELE-07/2024-25

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in.** Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Electrical Contractor are eligible to apply for the work of **"Providing 6 Nos Capacity Passenger Lift including all Civil and Electrical works at Hoysala Guest House at IISc, Bangalore".** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.29,93,238.71.** Last date of receipt of application is **11th March 2025 at 15:30 Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

Sd/-, Registrar

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o The Superintending Engineer, (Projects-WZ), GHMC, Hyderabad
Tender Notice No. 13/SE (P-WZ)/GHMC/2024-25/ Date: 21-02-2025

Name of Work: 1.) Construction of Steel Flyover and Underpass at Jubilee Hills Check Post Jn., KBR Park Entrance Jn., and Mugdha Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-1) under Engineering Procurement and Construction(EPC)/Turnkey - Basis, **2.)** Construction of Steel Flyover and Underpass at Road No.45 Jn., Film Nagar Jn., Maharaja Agrasen Jn. and Cancer Hospital Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-2) under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC)/Turnkey - Basis, **Est Cost: 1.)** Rs. 580 Crores, **2.)** Rs. 510 Crores. **Events, Date and Time: 1.) Start date:** 27-02-2025 from 03.00 PM, **2.) Pre-Bid Meeting:** 10-03-2025 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (Projects), GHMC 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office Tank Bund, Hyderabad, **3.) Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids:** 24-03-2025 upto 03.00 PM, **4.) Opening of Technical bid:** 24-03-2025 after 04.00 PM, **5.) Opening of Price bid:** 26-03-2025 after 04.00 PM.

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to sesrdppwz@gmail.com

Address of the officer concerned Sri .G. Sree Lakshmi, SE(P-WZ), Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ) GHMC**

DIPR R.O.No.10539-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt. 21.02.2025

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
Telephone No. 0145-2628475 **Fax No. 0145-2970247**
e-mail : aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No. F.()/Ar.MP/2024-2025/ 15651-15657 **Date: 13/02/25**

DATE CORRIGENDUM-3
(NIT No. 03/2024-2025)

In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2024-2025, issued vide this office Rajkaj No. 12408110 dated 13.12.2024 for the work of "Retrofitting work for providing water supply through FHTCs in 411 Main Habitations & 418 Other Habitations of Sub Divisions Peeplu, Todaraisingh & Malpura. (Dist. Tonk) under Jal Jeevan Mission with Operation and Maintenance for Ten (10) Years After Defect Liability Period of One (1) Year (NIT No.03/2024-25 ; Estimated Cost Rs. 275.08 Crores).", following amendments are hereby notified:

As per Published Information	Now amended as
Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 13.02.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.	Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 21.02.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.

UBN No. PHE2425WLOB07055

(Ram Chandra Rar)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PHED, Region, Ajmer

DIPR/C/2152/2025

INBRIEF

Five more cheetahs released into Kuno National Park

Five more cheetahs were released into the wild from their enclosures at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) on Friday, taking the total number of big cats set free to 12. According to an official statement from the KNP, Namibian cheetah Jwala and her four 13-month-old cubs – two males and two females – were released in the Khajuri forest area of the National Park. There are now five adult cheetahs and seven cubs roaming freely at Kuno, while a total of 14 remain in their enclosures. On February 5, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav had released five cheetahs – two adult females, Asha and Dheera, and three cubs – into the wild.

Class 10 student shot dead by classmate in Bihar's Rohtas

A Class 10 student was killed and another critically injured when a fellow student fired at them in Sasaram in Bihar's Rohtas district, the police said. According to the police, during the Urdu and Hindi exams on Thursday, a student had asked his two classmates for help inside the examination hall, which they refused. As the two students were returning home in an autorickshaw after the tests, their angry classmate opened fire at the duo, the police said. One of them, a resident of Sambhu Bigha village, died during treatment at a government hospital while the other is still undergoing treatment.

Concept of sexual equality must be part of syllabus: SC

Moral and ethical training, etiquette must be made part of the school syllabus, Justice Nagarathna tells Union government, judge says parents must stop discrimination between daughter and son

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday told the Centre that the concept of sexual equality and moral and ethical training of how men should behave with women respectfully must become a part of school syllabus.

"Moral and ethical training, etiquette must be made part of the school syllabus. There must be a module to inculcate this in schools at a very early age for children... Now, schools do not have moral education. Certain schools have it, but the class is usually cancelled and some other subjects are taken," Justice B.V. Nagarathna, heading a Bench comprising Justice S.C. Sharma, observed.

Justice Nagarathna said equality between daughters and sons must start at home. But, instead, discrimination starts at home with the parents.

"Parents are more focused on restraining their daughters and not their sons. The word 'discrimination' must go from our vocabulary," the judge said.

> Parents are more focused on restraining their daughters and not their sons. The word 'discrimination' must go from our vocabulary
> **B.V. NAGARATHNA**
> Supreme Court judge

The court was hearing a writ petition filed by petitioner-in-person and senior advocate Aabad Ponda, who said the root cause for the surge in rape cases and incidents of crimes against women was the lack of education at the basic level about equality among the sexes.

'Tremendous strain'

"Fifty per cent of our population, women, are living under tremendous strain and insecurity. There is a rise in the misogynistic and barbaric attitude towards women. Education must start at the smallest level to change the attitude towards women," Mr. Ponda submitted.

Justice Nagarathna agreed that many social circles still believed that a woman neither belonged to her parents' home nor the in-laws' home after marriage.

Awareness that a woman was independent, her own person, and commanded respect and equal treatment in society must be inculcated in society, the judge noted.

Justice Nagarathna said environmental science started being taught in schools as a subject on the orders of the Supreme Court. Likewise, moral education must become a part of the school syllabus.

The court ordered the government to place on record any measures taken by it so far to include the concept of sexual equality in school syllabus.

Mr. Ponda's plea also recommended using advertisements and the visual media for conveying zero tolerance to rape.

"Awareness of the stringent laws against rape must be advertised in cinema halls and in the media. There is no point if the person knows about these laws after he is sentenced to 20 years or is about to be hung to death," Mr. Ponda argued. He said knee-jerk reactions like making punishments harsher after a gruesome crime was hardly a solution.

Efforts to bridge the gap

The petition said efforts have to be made to bridge the gap between the law and the understanding and dissemination of the law to the public.

"The need of identifying the real cause of this crime is the first requirement. Once this is done, the next step would be to try to find measures to revolutionise the male mindset in the country amongst a large portion of the populace and instill in them the fear of the law," it said.

ED imposes penalty of ₹3 crore on BBC World Service India

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

BBC allegedly did not reduce its FDI to 26%, violating the rules issued by the Government of India

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday issued an adjudication order levying a penalty of over ₹3.44 crore on BBC World Service (WS) India, along with a fine of ₹5,000 per day after October 15, 2021, till the date of compliance, for the alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) provisions, according to agency sources.

"Additionally, directors Giles Antony Hunt, Indu Shekhar Sinha, and Paul Michael Gibbons, have each been fined ₹1,14,82,950 for their roles in overseeing company operations during the period of contravention," said a source. The adjudication proceedings were initiated after a show-cause notice was issued on August 4, 2023, to BBC WS India, its three directors, and the finance head.

The agency noted that on September 18, 2019, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade had issued a press note stipulating a 26% Foreign Direct Investment cap for digital media under the government approval route. However, the ED has alleged that BBC WS India – which is a 100% FDI company engaged in uploading/streaming news and current affairs through digital media – did not reduce its FDI to 26%, and kept it at 100% in "gross violation of regulations" issued by the Government of India.

In February 2023, the Income Tax Department surveyed the Delhi and Mumbai offices of the BBC on suspicion of "deliberate non-compliance with the transfer pricing rules and vast diversion of profits".

In December 2023, the BBC announced that it was restructuring its operations in India to comply with the country's foreign investment rules. "Four employees will leave the BBC to form a wholly Indian-owned company, Collective Newsroom, containing the BBC's six Indian language services. The broadcaster's English language newsgathering operation in India will remain with the BBC," said a BBC report.

A record 6.5 lakh Olive Ridley turtles reach Odisha beach for mass nesting

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Mass congregation: Olive Ridley turtles are seen at the Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district of Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Wildlife enthusiasts are thrilled as a record 6.5 lakh Olive Ridley turtles have arrived at the Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district of Odisha for mass nesting after a gap of two years.

"During 2023-24 and 2024-25, only sporadic nestings were noticed along Rushikulya. The last major congregation was recorded in 2022-23," Prem Kumar Jha, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), said. "It is heartening to note that 6.5 lakh turtles have congregated at Rushikulya beach to lay eggs this year. This has so far been the highest number of turtles arriving along Rushikulya beach," he said.

"Following the usual pattern, the mass congregation of Olive Ridley turtles at the Gahirmatha mass nesting site along Odisha's Kendrapara coast typically occurs about a week after nesting begins at Rushikulya. We hope Gahirmatha will witness a similar congregation this year as well," Mr. Jha said.

Coast Guard help

The Indian Coast Guard said its patrolling vessels were regularly monitoring the protected areas to prevent human interference – either from seaward poaching or leisure activities. The Coast Guard, in coordination with the fisheries and forest departments, is conducting 'Operation Olivia' from November 1 last year to protect the turtles. It will continue till May 31. "The operation has yielded positive results," the agency said.

Amid growing threat from drones, Army to strengthen its air defence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Amid the exponential growth in disruptive technologies such as drones, loitering munitions, and counter-drone systems, the Army's Air Defence is gearing up to induct new fragmentation ammunition for its air defence guns – approximately 1,300 in service – while also pushing for new systems to tackle the evolving aerial threat.

The Army is also set to finalise a contract for the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system within the next four to five months.

With a range of 30 km, the QRSAM, being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been a priority for the Army. "We are hoping to get the contract in place in four to five months. DRDO said that once the contract is done, First of Prototype Model (FoPM) will be there in 12 months because we already trial-evaluated the equipment. So, in 18 months they would be able to produce... and eventually have in both wheeled and tracked configurations subsequently," Director-General of Army Air Defence (AAD) Lt. Gen. Sumer Ivan D'Cunha said on Friday.

The Army is set to finalise a pact for the indigenously developed QRSAM system in a few months.

In addition, an enhanced version of the Akash missile, is set for high-altitude trials in the next 45 days.

'Huge revolution'

Referring to the recent growth in the use of drones, especially in the war in Ukraine, Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said they did not know the quantity and quality they were going to face. "We grew up in an environment where you could quantify air threat in terms of aircraft. Today the quantification is becoming a challenge. And the quality of what this is going to carry is a bigger challenge," he said.

"We have a huge revolution in military affairs in warfare and disruptive technologies by drones, single drones, loiter munitions, smart drones. We have the whole capability manifesting; we really got a disruptive warfare air defence challenge," the top officer said.

Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said air burst ammunition, laser and microwave weapons, and smart ammunition were in various stages of procurement. While high-end air defence systems were being upgraded, equipping existing L-70 and Zu-23 air defence guns with air burst ammunition was a priority, he said.

A tender has already been floated for 30mm fragmentation ammunition for the existing vintage guns.

A Request For Proposal for a successor gun to replace the L70 and Zu-23 was already out for 220 guns along with smart ammunition. Trials were expected to commence in July, with a contract likely to be awarded by May-June 2026, Lt. Gen. D'Cunha said, adding that they were not looking to import any guns.

SC issues notice on YouTuber's petition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Maharashtra and Assam governments on a plea by YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani to quash or transfer to Mumbai a First Information Report (FIR) registered in Guwahati accusing him of promoting obscenity in the online show *India's Got Latent*.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh issued a notice and tagged Mr. Chanchlani's plea with influencer Ranveer Allahbadia's pending petition.

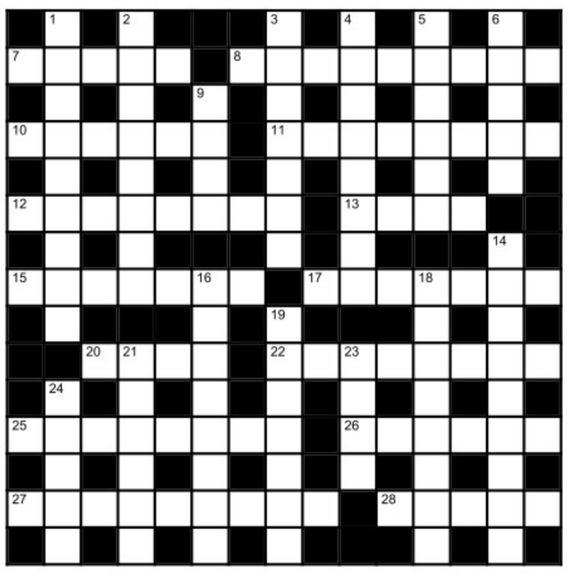
On February 18, the top court had protected Mr. Allahbadia from arrest for his controversial remarks about parents and sex during the online show after lambasting him for his "filthy language" and "dirty mind".

TH CROSSWORD + 14415

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Redo meshwork covering vaults (5)
8 Officer's lady being heartless as usual (9)
10 Colas served around one gathering (6)
11 Number mentioned by their disheartened youngster, perhaps (8)
12 Royal daughter's frequent picnic features in media (8)
13 Clash leads to sanctions on government (4)
15 Holds bad clues over two days (7)
17 Taking first week off and relaxing (7)
20 Attracting attention by making a point across southern society (4)
22 Unsociable but engaged? (8)
25 Thomas's pain initially to be relieved next day (8)
26 Is taking month-time to deliver thoughts (6)
27 Banter about good unknown ornaments (9)
28 Charges for clothing accessories (5)

Down

1 Bright and cool fur collected by indulger essentially (9)
2 Quit and joined again? (8)
3 Doctor's depression is leading to talks (7)
4 Likely to back soldiers or sure? (8)
5 Painting found in cheat's box (6)
6 Navy is fast (5)
9 Indication that culture is not even (4)
14 Gains attention at school (9)
16 Bank backs ten new individuals completely (8)
18 Most of the royals had cow (8)
19 Artists' pants (7)
21 Kept sorted, arranged (6)
23 Earth has succeeded finding fuel (4)
24 Scratching the head, repents getting suits (5)

SUDOKU

8				5	3		1	
			1				5	9
6								
				4	7		2	
7			2		5			3
	9		6	8				
								7
3	1				8			
	8		5	3				1

No.SS6438 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	A	S	C	I	N	A	T	I	N	G				
A		E		N		S		N		U		R		B
C	O	N	F	E	S	S		S	H	A	P	E	L	Y
E		D		B		U		T		N		G		T
P	O	S	E	R		A	N	A	T	O	M	I	S	E
A				I		G		N				C		
C	O	C	O	A		E	X	T	R	E	M	I	S	T
K		H		T					A		D		O	
S	T	A	G	E	H	A	N	D		S	H	E	E	P
		I				N		I		Y				S
B	A	R	B	A	R	O	U	S		C	A	S	T	E
A		M		L		D		S		H		C		C
R	E	A	L	I	T	Y		E	N	A	M	O	U	R
K		N		V		N		C		I		R		E
				E	J	E	C	T	O	R	S	E	A	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	6	4	3	7	1	2	8
4	1	7	6	2	8	9	5	3
2	8	3	9	5	1	4	7	6
8	7	5	1	9	4	3	6	2
9	2	1	3	6	5	7	8	4
6	3	4	8	7	2	5	1	9
7	6	8	5	4	9	2	3	1
1	4	2	7	8	3	6	9	5
3	5	9	2	1	6	8	4	7

FAITH

Overcoming attachment key

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna emphasises the importance of detachment, mentioning it over 80 times. This repetition underscores the significance of practising detachment in our daily lives, said Swami Mitranandaji.

Attachment, Krishna teaches us, gives rise to fear, a pervasive human emotion. Very rarely do we come across individuals being truly fearless. The ultimate fear is the fear of death, which can snatch away everything we possess in an instant. This fear is deeply ingrained, making it challenging to remember the divine at the moment of death. Krishna offers a profound solution in Chapter VIII of the Gita: If one remembers the Lord at the moment of death, they will attain liberation and become immortal.

He says, '*Antakale ca mameva smaranmuktva, kalevaram yah prayati sa madhbhavam, yati nastyatra samsayah* (Ch VIII, verse 5)'. (And whosoever, leaving the body, goes forth remembering Me alone, at the time of his death, he attains My being; there is no doubt about this).

The last thought at the moment of death determines our next destination. If our final thought is of the Lord, we will be drawn towards the divine. Conversely, if our thoughts are worldly, we will be bound to the cycle of birth and death. The direction of our thoughts at the moment of death is crucial, much like the trajectory of a bullet is determined by the direction of the gun barrel. Regular spiritual practice and prioritising the Lord can help us overcome attachment and remember the divine at the moment of death. By cultivating detachment and focusing on the Lord, we can transcend fear and attain liberation. As Krishna assures us, there is no doubt about this truth.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	75,311	-0.56
US Dollar	86.68	-0.04
Gold	88,750	-0.78
Brent oil	74.97	-2.33

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2133.10	-45.90
Adani Ports	1083.25	-28.45
Apollo Hosp	6317.55	-73.40
Asian Paints	2257.60	8.55
Axis Bank	1008.95	-8.25
Bajaj Auto	8506.05	-124.15
Bajaj Finserv	1879.35	-1.90
Bajaj Finance	8396.70	-2.75
Bharat Elec	256.10	-4.15
Bharti Airtel	1639.25	-4.25
BPCL	251.30	-7.30
Britannia Ind	4831.90	-0.50
Cipla	1475.75	-3.95
Coal India	369.95	2.00
Dr Reddys Lab	1151.80	-19.15
Eicher Motors	4962.45	74.05
Grasim Ind	2431.05	-22.65
HCL Tech	1700.70	13.15
HDFC Bank	1692.50	5.40
HDFC Life	622.85	2.85
Hero MotoCorp	3852.60	-56.50
Hindalco	653.55	14.75
Hind Unilever	2241.65	-6.40
ICICI Bank	1232.95	-17.00
IndusInd Bank	1043.75	-3.90
Infosys	1815.00	-10.15
ITC	400.90	-1.15
JSW Steel	981.90	0.75
Kotak Bank	1953.05	-17.50
L&T	3315.10	39.30
M&M	2669.35	-170.10
Maruti Suzuki	12323.45	-117.20
NestleIndia	2214.95	8.20
NTPC	326.25	1.10
ONGC	239.90	-2.00
PowerGrid Corp	261.90	-3.85
Reliance Ind	1228.15	-4.85
SBI Life	1495.40	25.60
State Bank	722.00	-7.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	585.10	4.25
Sun Pharma	1643.75	-25.55
TataConsumerProduct	1004.00	-4.90
Tata Motors	673.20	-16.60
Tata Steel	140.76	2.72
TCS	3786.00	6.60
Tech Mahindra	1649.50	-8.35
Titan	3179.90	-11.55
Trent Ltd.	5048.20	-51.30
UltraTech Cement	11157.25	-130.35
Wipro	306.35	-6.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.51	86.83
Euro	90.55	90.89
British Pound	109.40	109.81
Japanese Yen (100)	57.47	57.69
Chinese Yuan	11.92	11.97
Swiss Franc	96.20	96.57
Singapore Dollar	64.67	64.92
Canadian Dollar	60.95	61.18
Malaysian Ringitt	19.57	19.66
Australian Dollar	55.25	55.45

Source:Indian Bank

RBI to infuse liquidity via $10 bn USD-INR swap deal

The move is expected to have short-term positive impact on Rupee, mitigate pressure on the currency during periods of foreign fund outflows and prevent excessive volatility in exchange rate

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

To meet durable liquidity needs of the system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to infuse Rupee liquidity for greater duration through long-term USD-INR Buy/Sell swap auction.

Accordingly, the RBI will conduct a USD-INR Buy/Sell swap auction of $10 billion for a tenor of three years.

The auction time has been fixed from 10.30 am to 11.30 am on February 28, 2025. The spot date is March 4, 2025 and the far leg date is March 6, 2028.

"The market participants will be required to place their bids in terms of the premium that they are willing to pay to the Reserve Bank for the tenor of the swap, expressed in paisa terms up to two decimal places," the RBI said in a circular. "The auction cut-off would be based on the premium. The auction would be a multiple-price based auction, i.e., successful bids will get accepted at their respective quoted premium," it added.

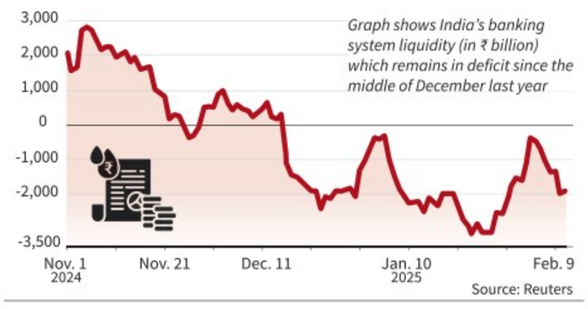
This will be the second swap auction by the RBI in a month. On January 31, it had infused $5.1 billion through a six-month swap.

Commenting on the development Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities said, "There will be a short-term positive impact on the rupee. The swap mechanism can help stabilise the currency by providing immediate liquidity support, thereby mitigating the pressure on the rupee during periods of foreign fund outflows."

"This temporary relief can bolster market confidence and prevent excessive volatility in the exchange rate. Spot USD INR can move towards 86.30," he said. According to an RBI circular, Authorised Dealers (ADs) - Category-1 banks will be the eligible entities to participate in the auction.

Facing deficit

India's banking system liquidity deficit was around ₹1.7 trillion as of February 20 and is set to widen further moving into the last month of the financial year when liquidity stress is maximum



Source: Reuters

Flash India PMI expands to 60.6 in Feb. on robust service sector indicators

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's service sector activity, as measured by the HSBC Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), rose to 60.6 in February, up from 57.7 in January 2025, according to a statement from HSBC. This marks the fastest growth in six months. The HSBC Flash PMI reflects private sector activity before the final reading is published, based on a sample that includes about three-quarters of the total companies surveyed for the final reading. A value above 50 indicates expansion.

The rise in private sector activity was driven by a Flash Services PMI of 61.1 for February, up from 56.5 in the final reading for January. However, the Flash Manufacturing PMI showed a slight slowdown, dipping to 57.1 in February from 57.7 in January.

Despite this moderation in the pace of expansion, the manufacturing sector remained above the long-run average of 54.1, which HSBC noted is "consistent with robust improvement in the health of the sector."

"A healthy acceleration in both orders and output is keeping firms optimistic about the future. While input prices eased, output prices rose at a faster pace, leading to improved margins, particularly for goods producers," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief Economist at HSBC.

RBI cautions against reckless financialisation

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Financial entities must ensure that their customers fully understand the risks of leveraged products and speculative investing, RBI Deputy Governor Rajeshwar Rao said, highlighting the vulnerabilities that come from "reckless financialisation."

Mr. Rao acknowledged the role of technology in financial inclusion, but warned that this could also increase the risk of exposure and over-leveraging.

This may increase the vulnerabilities of individual investors and broader financial system. "It is said that presence of too much light can also lead to blindness, we must be aware of the risk of reckless financialisation," he said.

Mr. Rao said financial sector entities must shoulder some responsibility to educate the investors.

Malhotra sees lower policy rate 'appropriate'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Supporting growth through monetary easing was the prime motivation behind the six-member Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) unanimous decision to vote for a rate cut, minutes of the MPC meeting revealed.

"Domestically, there is a need to preserve the high growth momentum, while maintaining price stability, necessitating monetary policy to use various policy instruments to maintain the inflation-growth balance," RBI Governor and MPC member Sanjay Malhotra said in his statement.

"Given the macroeconomic outlook when inflation is expected to align with the target, and recognising that monetary policy is forward-looking, I view a lower policy rate to be more appropriate in the current juncture," he said.

INBRIEF

S&P Global upgrades KMB to 'BBB' after RBI lifts curbs

Rating agency S&P Global upgraded Kotak Mahindra Bank's credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' on Friday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently lifted operational curbs. The banking regulator had directed Kotak Mahindra Bank to stop onboarding digital customers and cease credit card issuance in April 2024. Following this, the bank took corrective action and submitted compliance report to the RBI. The regulator then lifted the curbs on February 12.

BOI reports ₹226.84 cr. loan fraud by Gupta Power Infra

Bank of India (BOI) on Friday reported a fraud of ₹226.84 crore by Odisha-based Gupta Power Infrastructure Ltd. to the Reserve Bank. The bank has informed that the non-performing asset (NPA) of Gupta Power Infrastructure Ltd. had been declared as fraud, BoI said in a regulatory filing. Against the outstanding amount of ₹226.84 crore, the bank had made provisions of ₹212.62 crore for Gupta Power. BoI posted a 35% jump in Q3 net profit to ₹2,517 crore against ₹1,870 crore in the year-earlier period. PTI

'Less than 30% AI experts have hands-on experience'

India is the second largest AI talent in the world, but less than 30% of these people have hands-on experience in AI, said Lalitha Indrakanti, CEO, Jaguar Land Rover Technology and Business Services in India. "Digital transformation and AI transformation are here, but where is human transformation? Without putting people in the centre, this transformation journey won't be complete," she said on the sidelines of Beyond 2025, an event organised by 3AI, a platform for AI & Analytics professionals.

Textile investments reviving, says Textile Commissioner Rashi

M. Soundariya Preetha
MUMBAI

Investments in the textile sector that were sluggish for the last couple of years have revived, Textile Commissioner Roop Rashi said here on Friday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the inauguration of the three-day Global Textile Technology and Engineering Show Ms. Rashi said several textile and apparel companies that had taken part in the recently-concluded Bharat Tex in New Delhi said they were making investments.

Leverage engineering

Indian textile machinery manufacturers should leverage the strengths in textile engineering and localise textile machinery for all segments of the supply chain, she said.

"We should have sustainable, circular textiles," the Commissioner said.

Surplus cotton

On cotton production during the cotton season 2024-2025, she said it was estimated that there would be almost 29 lakh bales of surplus cotton this season.

So, the textile sector is not likely to face any shortage of cotton, she added.

Ketan Sanghvi, chairman of the India ITME Society, said the GTTES, with 210 participants from India and other countries, focused on post-spinning segments, including weaving preparation, weaving, printing, processing and technical textiles.

"A lot of investments are happening in technical textiles and the demand is also high for upgraded technology in weaving machines. The ecosystem for the weaving sector should improve to be on pare with the spinning segment. There should be more manufacturers of motors, drives," he said.

He also said the Centre had approved duty-free import of shuttle-less looms with a few conditions. While it gave thrust to indigenisation and foreign direct investments, allowing duty-free imports is unlikely to incentivise local manufacturing, he said.

(The writer was in Mumbai at the invitation of India ITME Society)

Textile Commissioner Roop Rashi visits a stall at the Global Textile Technology and Engineering Show in Mumbai.

Premier Looms to make air jet looms in India

Surat-based Premier Looms will start local production of 'air jet' weaving looms in a year, said A.K. Bidiwala, who heads its sales and marketing. Premier is looking to almost double its annual turnover to ₹300 crore in FY26 from current ₹160 crore and invest almost ₹50 crore more in machinery, Mr. Bidiwala said.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysore.
TenderNotification Number: DAMH/CW/T-15/2024-25
Date: 19.02.2025

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 03 works (DAMH/2024-25:OW/WORK_INDENT-117 (call-2), 123, 124 under the standard tender documents KW-2 & 4. The minimum amount Rs.50.00 lakhs and Maximum amount Rs.150.00 lakhs kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through e-portal from date 19.02.2025 onwards. **Last date and time of any Queries for tender:** 27.02.2025, 17.00 hrs. **Last date and time of tender submission:** 07.03.2025, 16.00 hrs. **Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid:** 11.03.2025, 16.30 hrs. **Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid:** 12.03.2025, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore.
DIPR/DDMYS/1339/KSMCA/964/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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ಡಿ.ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು-04
E-mail Id : ddpimys@gmail.com & ddpi.edu.karmys@kar.nic.in
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ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(Notice Inviting Short Term Tender through E-Procurement)
2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಲೈಬ್ರರಿ ಲ್ಯಾಬ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಕರಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳಿಗೆ "ಇ" ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಇ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವುದು. **1)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿ: 15.02.2025 **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.158 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. **3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿ: 15.02.2025 **4)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 15.02.2025 ರಿಂದ 24.02.2025 **5)** Technical Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿ: 25.02.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮೈಸೂರು. **6)** Financial Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ 25/02/2025 ಸಂಜೆ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮೈಸೂರು **7)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 316000 ಶೇ.2% ರಂತೆ. **8)** ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಡಿ.ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು-04 E-mail Id: ddpimys@gmail.com & ddpi.edu.karmys@kar.nic.in ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:0821-2490025 **9)** ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಪಶೀಲುಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ NEFT(Online) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಆಸಕ್ತರು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು [ಆಡಳಿತ], ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/1321/KSMCA/953/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Commissioner, Yelahanka Zone,
Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore - 560 092.
No.: BBMP/JC/YNK.Z/TEND/02/2024-25 Date:18.02.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)
The Joint Commissioner, Yelahanka Zone invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Manpower for Mosquito Control Activities at Ward No. 03 (Attur) of Yelahanka Zone. Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 7.84 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 20,000/-**
2	Providing 2 Auto for Power Spraying & Fogging to Mosquito Control Activities at Yelahanka Assembly Constituency. Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 17.28 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 43,500/-**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal. **2)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **06.03.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. 3)** Opening of Technical bid: **07.03.2025 at 4.30 p.m. 4)** Opening of Financial bid: **10.03.2025 at 4.00 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner, Yelahanka Zone.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP Portal Mode only)
KPTCL invites bids for the following works.
No. SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/F- 82(15)/24-25/9150-51 Dtd:20.02.2025
1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/ Railway_crossing/EE(O)/AE/23-24/EPR-21/Call-5 dtd: 05.03.2024, for "Tender for replacement aged Railway crossing conductors with same capacity new conductor at various locations of railway crossing, coming under the jurisdiction of TLM Rajajinagar section, TLM Sub-division Rajajinagar, Operation Division, KPTCL, SRS Peenya, Bengaluru-58 **on total turnkey basis.**
No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F- 76(12)/24-25/9152-53 Dtd:20.02.2025
2)Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/ EE(O)/AEE-2/24-25/EPR-28 Dt: 21.11.2024 for "Repairs to faulty 20 MVA, 66/11kV class, Andrew Yule Make, Sl. No: 13186 Power Transformer failed at 66/11kV L R Bande Sub-station, Hebbal Operations Division, North Circle, Bengaluru on total turnkey basis and Percentage tender basis. Call-2.
The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be obtained by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **24.02.2025**. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec.,
Transmission (Operations), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru -09,

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010 UP India
Phones: +91-522-6692190, 2192; Website: www.drrmlims.ac.in
Advertisement No.- DrRMLIMS/ER/Rect-F(R)/2025/288 Dated: 21.02.2025
General Recruitment Advertisement for Appointment of Associate Professors on Regular Basis
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, an Autonomous Tertiary Level Medical Teaching Institute under Govt of UP, invites eligible candidates from ALL Categories for appointments on Regular basis to the Associate Professor posts (down-gradable to Assistant Professor) in various Broad and Super Specialty Departments. For detailed advertisement / information, Terms & Conditions, link to online application forms, and subsequent updates, kindly visit the Institute website- **https://drrmlims.ac.in/recruitment** from **23 February 2025.**
Director

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र, बीकानेर
फोन 0151-2226451, ईमेल rj_acebi@nic.in
क्रमांक अति/बी/अंके.बी/2024-25/13176 दिनांक:- 12.02.25
ई-बोली सूचना संख्या अमुअ/बी/2024-25/14
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्न हस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिक विभाग एवं अन्य विभागों में सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नानुसार ई-बोली द्वारा बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली प्रपत्र वेबसाईट www.phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in", "www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं http:/eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर दिनांक 12.02.2025 सांय 06.00 बजे से 17.03.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक उपलब्ध हैं। इस निविदा सूचना संख्या ACEBI/2024-25/14 में कुल 01 कार्य है, जिनकी कुल अनुमानित लागत रू. 2634.93 लाख है। इन निविदाओं के एसपीपी पोर्टल पर यूबीएन नम्बर क्रमशः **UBN NO- PHE2425WL0B09668** है।
DIPR/C/2048/2025 (राजेश पुरोहित), अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र-बीकानेर

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Notice Inviting Bid
1. BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS 220KV AND 132KV TRANSMISSION LINES ASSOCIATED WITH 220KV GSS KARDA (KARWADA) INCLUDING SURVEY, SUPPLY OF ALL EQUIPMENTS/ MATERIALS, ERECTION (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS), TESTING AND COMMISSIONING (TURNKEY PROJECT) AGAINST SPECIFICATION NO. RVPN/EHV/BN-9019002442 & UBN: VPN2425WLOB03087 ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UP TO 04:00 PM ON 28.03.2025.
2. BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 220/132 KV, 1X160 MVA; 132/33KV, 1X31.5 MVA SUBSTATION AT KARDA (KARWADA) (DISTT.- SANCHORE) ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED 2X132 BAY WORK AT 132 KV GSS SANKAD FOR PROPOSED 132 KV D/C KARDA-SANKAD LINE AND 33 KV, 5.43 MVAR SHUNT CAPACITOR BANK, INCLUDING SURVEY, SUPPLY OF ALL EQUIPMENT'S/MATERIALS, ERECTION (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS), TESTING AND COMMISSIONING (TURNKEY PROJECT) AGAINST SPECIFICATION NO. RVPN/EHV/BN-9019002443 & UBN: VPN2425WLOB03088 ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UP TO 04:00 PM ON 28.03.2025.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website. **Superintending Engineer (Contracts-II), Jaipur**
Raj.Samwad/C/24/12050 RRVPN/TR-6637/2025

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-पाली
E-Mail: acephedpali@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक- अमुअ/जन.स्वा./क्षेत्र पाली/त.स./24-25/155 दिनांक:-12/02/2025
बिड संशोधन सूचना (NIB) संख्या 02/2024-25
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक अमुअ/जन.स्वा./क्षेत्र पाली/त.स./24-25/राजकाज रेफ. नं. 12471697 दिनांक 17.12.2024 द्वारा जारी निविदा संख्या 01-04/2024-25 मे से निविदा संख्या 02/2024-25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB07275) की तकनिकी दक्षता एवं तिथियों मे आवश्यक संशोधन जारी किया जाकर https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया।

	NIB No. 02/2024-25	
	Existing Date	Amended Date
Availability of Bid Document	18-12-2024, 03:00 PM	18-12-2024, 03.00 PM
Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	24-12-2024 3:00 PM	24-12-2024 03:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM
Last date & time for Online Download of Bid	13-02-2025 5:00 PM	24-02-2025 5:00 PM
Last date & time for Online Submission of Bid	13-02-2025 6:00 PM	24-02-2025 6:00 PM
Last date & time for physical Submission of Bid Security and other mandatory Documents	14-02-2025 11:00 AM	25-02-2025 11:00 AM
Date of online opening of Technical Bids	14-02-2025 3:00 PM	25-02-2025 3:00 PM

(जगदीश चन्द्र व्यास)
DIPR/C/2100/2025 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता जन स्वास्थ्य, अभियात्रिक विभाग, क्षेत्र पाली

PARIS

Macron's message to Trump: 'You can't be weak in the face of Putin'

AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that he intends to tell U.S. counterpart Donald Trump that it is in the joint interest of Americans and Europeans not to "be weak" in the face of Russian leader Vladimir Putin amid U.S.-led negotiations to end the nearly three-year war in Ukraine. AP

NAIROBI

Kenyan police officers plead not guilty of murdering Indians, driver

GETTY IMAGES

Thirteen Kenyan security officers denied murdering two Indian men and their driver in 2022. The victims — Mohamed Zaid Sami Kidwai, Zulfiqar Ahmed Khan, and Nicodemus Mwania Mwange — were allegedly killed weeks before the election. The accused, including a national intelligence officer, await a March 20 bail ruling. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump's govt. cancels protection for 5,00,000 Haitian migrants

REUTERS

The Trump administration cancelled an extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 5,00,000 Haitians, originally set to last until February 2026. The new expiration date is August 3, 2025. Homeland Security secretary Kristi Noem said this decision returns TPS to its original "temporary" status. AFP

MOSCOW

U.S. trying to drive wedge between Russia and China: Belarus leader

REUTERS

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said on Friday the U.S. is attempting to create discord between Russia and China. He noted that any resolution to the Ukraine conflict could yield mixed outcomes for Belarus, which has faced heavy Western sanctions due to its support for Russia's military actions. AFP

Trump says Zelenskyy's presence 'not important' in talks to end war

U.S. President claims Ukraine leader has been involved in talks for 3 years without producing results; Rubio rejects claims that the Trump administration has capitulated to Russia, noting the need to determine if Moscow is 'serious' about peace

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Critical juncture: Donald Trump speaks at the Governors Working Session in the State Dining Room of White House on Friday. AP

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday said he does not consider it essential for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to be present at negotiations aimed at ending Russia's war in Ukraine.

"I don't think he's very important to be in meetings," Mr. Trump said in an audio interview with *Fox News*. "He's been there for three years. He makes it very hard to make deals."

Later, the U.S. President added that Ukrainian leaders "don't have any cards" in the talks.

"I've had very good talks with [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, and I've had not such good talks with Ukraine. They don't have any cards, but they play it tough. But we're not going to let this continue," Mr. Trump told a gathering of U.S. governors at the White House on Friday.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio pushed back against accusations that the Trump administration has given in to Russia even before talks on ending the Ukraine war begin, saying Washington first wants to see whether Moscow was "serious".

Russia and the United States agreed to establish teams to negotiate ending the war at talks in Riyadh earlier this week. Neither Ukraine nor its European allies were invited.

Mr. Trump "wants this war with Ukraine to end. And he wants to know: Are the Russians serious about ending the war, or not serious about ending the war?" Mr. Rubio said in an interview on Thursday posted on X.

"The only way is to test them, to basically engage them and say, okay, are you serious about ending the war, and if so, what are your demands," Mr. Rubio said.

Despite providing essential funding and arms to Ukraine, Mr. Trump's outreach to Moscow has unsettled Kyiv and its European allies, who fear unfavourable terms. Mr. Rubio rejected claims that the U.S. had sidelined Ukraine and its allies, arguing that a resolution requires representation from both sides.

Meanwhile, Kyiv and Washington are engaged in talks over a deal to hand the U.S. preferential access to Ukraine's mineral deposits, a source in Kyiv said on Friday – despite a dramatic spat between Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Mr. Trump.

Netanyahu vows revenge after 'Hamas truce violation'

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Desperate wait: People stand with flags as a convoy transporting four released bodies of hostages pass through Tel Aviv. GETTY IMAGES

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed revenge on Friday for what he described as a "cruel and malicious violation" of the ceasefire agreement after a body that Hamas released as part of the deal was found to not be that of an Israeli mother of two young boys, as the militants had promised.

The incident raised questions about the future of the fragile ceasefire deal, which has paused over 15 months of war and is due to see its first phase end in early March. But in the short term, there were indications the deal's next step – the release of six living hostages on Saturday – would proceed as planned.

In a statement on Friday, Hamas said it would "conduct a thorough review" of the information regarding the body.

It suggested a possible mix-up of remains might have occurred due to Israeli bombing of the area where the Israeli hostages were being held because other Palestinians were also present. Hamas added that it had "no interest in retaining any bodies".

Hamas turned over four bodies on Thursday as part of the ceasefire. They were supposed to have been those of Shiri Bibas and her two young sons, Kfir and Ariel Bibas, and of Oded Lifshitz, who was 83 when he was abducted during the Hamas attack that started the war on October 7, 2023.

Israeli authorities said that while the remains of the two boys and of Lifshitz were positively identified, the fourth body was found to not be that of Shiri Bibas, but that of an unidentified woman from Gaza.

Senate confirms Kash Patel as FBI director

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

Kash Patel

New FBI director Kash Patel has vowed to "rebuild" trust in the bureau as he becomes the first Indian-American to lead the country's premier law enforcement agency after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The Republican-led Senate narrowly voted to confirm 44-year-old Patel on Thursday. The Senate voted 51 to 49 to confirm Mr. Patel.

The nomination faced intense scrutiny from Democrats on Capitol Hill who have warned that Mr. Patel is poised to use the position to seek retribution against Mr. Trump's perceived political enemies.

Mini-Arab summit seeks united position on Gaza crisis

Kallol Bhattacherjee
RIYADH

In a bid to convey a united position regarding the Trump administration's plans for Gaza, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman on Friday hosted the leaders of the six Gulf Cooperation Council member states and Jordan and Egypt. Riyadh has been decked up with Saudi flags on the occasion of the Saudi Founding Day that will be marked on February 22 and the summit is being presented as a sign of carrying forward Saudi commitment to peace and regional stability.

The meeting was announced by Bader Al Asaker, head of the private office of the Crown Prince. "A friendly, fraternal meeting in Riyadh brings together His Highness Crown Prince and Their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, His Majesty the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Excellency, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt," said Mr. Al Asaker.

Prior to the summit, Saudi Arabia carried out a flurry of diplomatic outreach targeting key stakeholders in the region. Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan on Thursday briefed his counterparts of the G20 countries regarding the peace initiatives that Riyadh launched in consultation with other Arab countries after President Trump on February 5 put out his statement on solving the Gaza crisis through relocation of the Palestinian population to neighbouring states. Mr. Faisal met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Australia's Penny Wong, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, and French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noel Barrot. He also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during the same outreach. Other countries too were doing similar outreach including the Emir of Qatar, Tamim Bin Hamad, who visited India and Iran before flying into Riyadh for Friday's discussion.

Mohammed bin Salman

Earlier, the official Saudi Press Agency had announced that the "informal brotherly gathering" was aimed at "enhancing cooperation and coordination among the GCC states (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE), Jordan and Egypt". Crown Prince Mohammed came out swiftly with a statement reiterating the "two-state" solution for resolving the Palestine crisis after President Trump called for a "take over" of the Gaza Strip. Earlier, King Abdullah of Jordan, who met President Trump on February 11, also sent an "urgent message" to the White House about the regional implications of annexing Gaza Strip.

On February 19, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef met King Abdullah to brief the Jordanian side about the Saudi initiatives on Gaza and the Ukraine crises. Amman's official news outlet Jordan News Agency reported that during the discussion with the Saudi team, King Abdullah rejected President Trump's proposal to "own" Gaza Strip which would lead to displacement of Palestinians from Gaza Strip and possibly also from West Bank.

Sport

Men continue to go up the table, women slip to the bottom

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

Drawing level: Mandeep rushes in to receive the ball before firing in India's equaliser. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The Indian men continued their gradual climb up the table with a 3-1 win against Ireland in the FIH Pro League on Friday even as the women continued their losing streak, going down 0-4 to Germany at the Kalinga Stadium.

The contest was closer than the difference in rankings would suggest, Ireland playing positive, attacking hockey from the start and forcing India to constantly regroup and find ways around the Irish play.

They also went ahead early, Matthew Nelson feeding Jeremy Duncan right in front of the goal and the latter slotting home in the 8th minute. The setback seemed to wake up India from its slumber.

There was an urgency to its attack and it paid off in the 22nd minute.

Superb goal

Rajinder, consistently among the most impressive of players so far, stole the ball and passed on to Jarmanpreet on the sideline, who found Abhishek Nain inside. Mandeep Singh, receiving the ball from almost 35 yards out, ran up inside and slammed home, all in one quick motion, to level scores.

India scored two more, through PC rebounds, and had several more chances but for Jamie Carr in the goal. Luke Roleston, replacing him in the final quarter, was equally impressive. To their credit, the Irish kept pressing hard while maintaining a stubborn defence.

The women's woes continued, suffering their fourth loss, handing Germany its first win in seven games of the competition and slipping to bottom place on the table.

The Indians were completely outplayed in every department for most of the game, only managing to hold their own and show some fight in the third quarter that elicited two PCs, both wasted.

For the rest, specially the first 30 minutes, the Indians managed to reach the German circle a grand total of two times, running around clueless and constantly conceding space and possession to a team that is in a rebuilding phase after the Olympics.

The German domination started in the 3rd minute when Aina Kresken sent the ball through a maze of half-a-dozen Indian defenders for Amelie Wortmann to tap it in.

Post break, India tried to wrench back the initiative and put the opponents under pressure but once Germany overcame that brief period, it was back to business as usual in the final quarter, adding two more to the scoreline.

The results: Women:
Netherlands 5 (Joosje Burg 27, Pien Dicke 33, Luna Fokke 37, Fredrique Matla 38, Fay van der Elst 50) bt England 1 (Olivia Hamilton 57), Germany 4 (Amelie Wortmann 3, Sophia Schwabe 18, 47, Johanna Hachenberg 59) bt India 0.

Men: India 3 (Mandeep Singh 22, Jarmanpreet Singh 45, Sukhjeet Singh 58) bt Ireland 1 (Jeremy Duncan 8).

In-form Gloriousness for the Bangalore Juvenile Million

BENGALURU: Gloriousness, who is in fine fettle, may score an encore in the Bangalore Juvenile Million (1,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Feb 22). There will be no false rails.

1 GHATAPRABHA PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Elveden (2) Aleemuddin 60, 2. Mega Success (1) Jagadeesh 59.5, 3. Peridot (4) Pavan 59.5, 4. Lady Invictus (5) Trevor 59, 5. Anchorage (6) Shreyas S 55, 6. Quick Witted (7) S. Kamble 53.5, 7. Sea Diamond (8) C. Umesh 53.5 and 8. Ice Storm (3) M. Rajesh K 53.

1. LADY INVICTUS, 2. SEA DIAMOND, 3. ANCHORAGE

2 BELLARY PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 6-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. King Of War (3) Akshay K 62.5, 2. Golden Time (4) Koshi K 62, 3. Sekhmet (2) Antony 61.5, 4. Indian Blues (6) Kiran Rai 61, 5. Southern Force (5) P. Sai Kumar 60.5, 6. Armory (1) M. Rajesh K 57.5, 7. Disruptor (7) L.A. Rozario 55 and 8. Memorable Time (8) Likith Appu 50.5.

1. KING OF WAR, 2. SEKHMET, 3. GOLDEN TIME

3 SHIVAGANGA FALLS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3-30: 1. Prophecy (3) Likith Appu 60, 2. Lorven Luv (4) Koshi K 55, 3. Martha (6) Kiran Rai 55, 4. Mister Brown (1) Tousif 55, 5. Noble Cause (5) L.A. Rozario 55, 6. Star Symphony (8) A. Anamo Hangal 53.5, 7. Wakizashi (–) (–) 53.5, 8. Winfield (10) Antony 53.5, 9. Blue Saint (11) Salman Khan 53, 10. Carter (2) R. Vaibhav 53, 11. Legendary Impact (7) Akshay K 52.5 and 12. Amusing (12) Vinod Shinde 51.

1. LEGENDARY IMPACT, 2. PROPHECY, 3. MARTHA

4 DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,600m), rated 80 & above, 4-00: 1. Priceless Gold (5) Vinod Shinde 62.5, 2. De Villiers (2) Akshay K 58, 3. Vivaldo (4) Trevor 57.5, 4. Dun It Again (3) Koshi K 54, 5. Forseti (1) Salman Khan 52.5.

1. DE VILLIERS, 2. VIVALDO

5 BANGALORE JUVENILE MILLION (1,400m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-30: 1. El Rey (6) David Allan 55, 2. Quebec (3) Trevor 55, 3. Gloriousness (5) Suraj 53.5, 4. Ice Of Fire (1) Sandesh 53.5, 5. Moon Star (4) G. Vivek 53.5 and 6. Perfect Attitude (2) Antony 53.5.

1. GLORIOUSNESS, 2. PERFECT ATTITUDE

6 SABARMATI PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 6-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. N R I Millennium (4) S. Hinayathulla 62, 2. Dawn Rising (9) Afsar 61.5, 3. Benzema (8) P. Sai Kumar 61, 4. Meghann (11) Laxman S 61, 5. Raffles (2) Trevor 61, 6. Chinky Pinky (12) Aleemuddin 59.5, 7. Phoenix Surprise (1) Arvind K 59.5, 8. Burning Arrow (6) Kiran Rai 58.5, 9. Recreator (5) Pavan 58, 10. Princess Jasmine (7) Suhas K 57, 11. My Visionary (10) Jagadeesh 55.5 and 12. Master Victory (3) Saddam H 52.

1. BENZEMA 2. RECTREATOR, 3. RAFFLES

7 SHIVAGANGA FALLS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-30: 1. All Attraction (3) A. Anamo Hangal 62.5, 2. Eclipse Pulse (–) (–) 60.5, 3. Yannick (10) Aleemuddin 60.5, 4. Priceless Prince (5) Saddam H 60, 5. Anzac Parade (8) L.A. Rozario 59, 6. Ladylion (6) Antony 58, 7. Pericles (9) Akshay K 57.5, 8. Count Basie (2) Mukesh K 55.5, 9. Mehra (11) R. Pradeep 55.5, 10. Equalizer (1) Likith Appu 55, 11. Feeling Good (7) Suhas K 54 and 12. Posthaste (12) S. Shareef 53.5.

1. PERICLES, 2. LADYLION, 3. COUNT BASIE

Day's best: **GLORIOUSNESS**

Double: **LADY INVICTUS – DE VILLIERS**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

EUPHORIC

A great honour to be representing Kerala in its first Ranji final: Saxena

R.V. MOORTHY

Veteran all-rounder Jalaj Saxena said it was an honour as a professional player to be playing in Kerala's first-ever Ranji Trophy final. It will be the all-rounder's first Ranji final too. "I think it is a great honour for me to be representing Kerala in its first Ranji final. It's a feeling I cannot express in words," said the 38-year-old.

GELLING WELL

From day one, I didn't feel like an outsider in Kerala team: Sarwate

R.V. MOORTHY

Left-arm spinner Aditya Sarwate, a three-time Ranji finalist, had joined Kerala ahead of the season from Vidarbha. "I've been playing for Vidarbha for the last 10 years, so it was extremely emotional for me to leave. But from day one, I didn't feel like an outsider here. As a 35-year-old, my motivation now is to pass on my experience," he said.

GRACIOUS

I am extremely proud of this unit: Rahane after semifinal loss

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane, despite the loss to Vidarbha, said he was happy with the way the domestic season progressed. "I never get satisfied and I don't want to pinpoint certain areas. When you lose, it's very easy to find excuses. I am extremely proud of this unit. Especially the support staff, they have worked extremely hard," Rahane said.

READY TO ROLL

Injury-hit Australia kicks off CT campaign against England

AFP

An injury-hit Australia opens its Champions Trophy campaign against England in Lahore on Saturday. The onus will be on stand-in captain Steve Smith to spearhead the batting unit while Travis Head — the hero of the World Cup final in Ahmedabad in 2023 — needs to be in his zone if the team has to progress.

Kerala seals yet another edge-of-the-seat thriller

After a heist against J&K when a one-run lead won the day in the quarterfinal, the visitors stop the gallant Gujarat batters two runs short this time to put themselves on the threshold of glory

RANJI TROPHY

Anish Pathiyil
AHMEDABAD

Punching above their weight: Baby's men, facing another crunch situation, rose to the occasion to knock out Gujarat and set up a summit clash against Vidarbha. R.V. MOORTHY

The stage was set for a gripping finale. The odds were stacked against Kerala, with Gujarat needing just 28 runs to cross the opponent's 457 and with three wickets in hand. But, the visitor dug deep to earn a slender two-run lead, enough to qualify for its first-ever Ranji Trophy final.

Jaymeet Patel and Siddharth Desai had already displayed their defensive capabilities, combining for a solid 72-run stand. The visitor built up the pressure with some tight bowling, conceding just five runs in the first five overs of the day.

Kerala looked to have scuffed the chance to remove the well-set Jaymeet when skipper Sachin Baby dropped a comfortable catch at short cover off the bowling of Aditya Sarwate.

The drop, however, didn't prove costly. Sarwate beat the batter's outside edge a couple of balls later and Mohammed Azharuddeen showed great awareness to dislodge the bails with the batter's foot hanging on the crease.

With the set batter out, Kerala sensed a chance. Sarwate continued after a change in ends and drove another nail into Gujarat's hopes when Siddharth was given out lbw by the third umpire after a review.

A couple of outside edges off injured number eleven Priyajitsinh Jadeja and Arzan Nagwaswalla's smart rotation of strike took the home side to just two runs shy of Kerala's score. A tied first-innings would have sent Gujarat to the final on account of having more group stage points.

With just one run to play with, Kerala brought all their fielders in and Nagwaswalla sensed the opportunity to tonk one over the infield only for the shot to ricochet off Salman Nizar at short leg and nestle into the hands of Baby.

The lead, by the barest of margins, meant all Kerala had to do was bat out the remaining overs and despite Gujarat fighting back, Saxena held his nerve to guide the team till the ceremonial handshake.

The scores:
Kerala — 1st innings: 457.
Gujarat — 1st innings: Priyank Panchal b Saxena 148, Aarya Desai b Basil 73, Manan Hingrajia lbw b Saxena 33, Urvil Patel st. Azharuddeen b Saxena 25, Hemang Patel (concussion substitute for Ravi Bishnoi) c (sub) Roger b Nidheesh 27, Jaymeet Patel st. Azharuddeen b Sarwate 79, Chintan Gaja lbw b Saxena 2, Vishal Jayswal c Basil b Sarwate 14, Siddharth Desai lbw b Sarwate 30, Arzan Nagwaswalla c Baby b Sarwate 10, Priyajitsinh Jadeja (not out) 3; Extras (b-9, lb-2): 11; Total (in 174.4 overs): 455.

Fall of wickets: 1-131, 2-238, 3-277, 4-292, 5-320, 6-325, 7-357, 8-436, 9-446.

Kerala bowling: Nidheesh 23-4-86-1, Saxena 71-14-149-4, Basil 22-1-59-1, Sarwate 45.4-7-111-4, Chandran 12-0-36-0, Imran 1-0-3-0.

Kerala — 2nd innings: Rohan Kunnummal lbw b Siddharth Desai 32, Akshay Chandran c Hemang b Siddharth Desai 9, Varun Nayanar lbw b Hingrajia 1, Jalaj Saxena (not out) 37, Sachin Baby lbw b Hingrajia 10, Ahammed Imran (not out) 14; Extras (b-5, lb-2, nb-4): 11; Total (for four wkts. in 46 overs): 114.

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-31, 3-67, 4-81.

Gujarat bowling: Siddharth Desai 21-9-45-2, Jayswal 15-4-40-0, Hingrajia 10-4-22-2.

Vidarbha avenges loss to Mumbai

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

Mohit Avasthi and Royston Dias – in sync with Mumbai's trend for the season of the lower-order contributing much more with the bat than the top-order – frustrated the Vidarbha bowlers.

It resulted in the second session being extended by 30 minutes and Mumbai's last-wicket partnership crossing the 50-run mark.

However, off the fifth ball of the last session, Harsh Dubey – the standout bowler this Ranji Trophy season – rapped Avasthi on the pads.

The big scream
Umpire Virender Sharma upheld the appeal and the entire Vidarbha camp screamed in unison before a pause. Avasthi reviewed the decision, the DRS confirmed the on-field call, and it was followed by a long celebration.

Not only had Vidarbha convincingly avenged last year's Ranji Trophy final loss against Mumbai, but more importantly, it had entered its second consecutive Ranji final.

Vidarbha will face Kerala at the same venue in the final from February 26.

The scores:
Vidarbha — 1st innings: 383.
Mumbai — 1st innings: 270.
Vidarbha — 2nd innings: 292.
Mumbai — 2nd innings: Akash Anand lbw b Dubey 39, Ayush Mhatre b Dubey 18, Siddhesh Lad st Wadkar b Dubey 2, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Rekhade 12, Shivam Dube b Yash 12, Suryakumar Yadav c Taide b Dubey 23, Shams Mulani run out 46, Shardul Thakur b Yash 66, Tanush Kotian b Rekhade 26, Mohit Avasthi lbw b Dubey 34, Royston Dias (not out) 23; Extras (b-16, lb-3 nb-5): 24; Total (in 97.5overs): 325.

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-37, 3-65, 4-84, 5-115, 6-124, 7-227, 8-254, 9-273.

Vidarbha bowling: Bhute 10-2-27-0, Nalkande 8-0-36-0, Dubey 41.5-6-127-5, Yash 10-0-43-2, Rekhade 27-3-70-2, Karun 1-0-3-0.

PoM: Yash Rathod.

On a high: Vidharbha players celebrate after the fall of the last Mumbai wicket. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Rickelton shines as SA downs Afghanistan

In smashing form: Rickelton's maiden ODI century set up South Africa's thumping win. AP

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
KARACHI

Ryan Rickelton became the second South African batter, after Gary Kirsten, to score a century on debut in an ICC tournament as South Africa began its Champions Trophy campaign with a convincing 107-run victory against Afghanistan.

At the National Stadium on Friday, the young Rickelton (103, 106b, 7x4, 1x6) justified his team's decision to bat first with a mature innings. He kept the scoreboard ticking with singles and boundaries, to guide South Africa to 315 for 6 - a target that was far from Afghanistan's reach, despite Rahmat Shah's 92-ball-90.

South Africa lost Tony de Zorzi early after Afghanistan introduced spinner Mohammed Nabi in the PowerPlay.

However, with Rickelton and captain Temba Bavuma (58, 76b, 5x4) steadying things, and adding 129 runs for the second wicket, South Africa managed to negate Afghanistan's spin ploy. Rickelton found boundaries regularly, even though Bavuma took his time to settle, before finding the momentum and ensuring that he brought up a fighting fifty.

Rickelton struck his maiden ODI century and looked set for a big score before he was run-out by Rashid Khan. Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen, chipped in with fifties.

Pursuing a massive total, Afghanistan batters failed to show resilience against the opposition's fast bowling line-up, led by Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi, and lost wickets at regular intervals.

Despite a large number of fans cheering for the team, it lost four wickets for 50 runs before Rahmat put up a fight. His efforts went in vain as Afghanistan's Champions Trophy debut turned out to be a forgettable one.

The scores: South Africa 315/6 in 50 overs (Rickelton 103, Bavuma 58, van der Dussen 52, Markram 52) bt **Afghanistan** 208 in 43.3 overs (Rahmat 90; Rabada 3/36); **Toss:** South Africa. **PoM:** Rickelton.

Harmanpreet & Co. spoil RCB's homecoming

WPL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Winning feeling! Amanjot, who came up with an all-round show, and Kamalini took MI home in a tense finish. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Garden City rarely misses an opportunity to turn up in numbers for a Women's Premier League match. And so it did on Friday, filling the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium to the brim. Unfortunately, it had to return home disappointed as its beloved Royal Challengers Bengaluru lost to Mumbai Indians by four wickets.

An Ellyse Perry special (81, 43b, 11x4, 2x6) had carried RCB to a competitive 167 for seven but MI, via Nat Sciver-Brunt's scorching 42 (21b, 9x4), captain Harmanpreet Kaur's partsedate, part-aggressive 50 (38b, 8x4, 1x6) and Amanjot Kaur's first-rate finishing act (34 n.o., 27b, 2x4, 2x6) handed RCB its first loss in three games.

Sciver-Brunt set the PowerPlay overs on fire before Harmanpreet and Amanjot brought the equation down to 24 off 18. Tweaker Georgia Wareham nearly turned the game on its head by removing Harmanpreet and Sajana Sajeevan off back-to-back deliveries.

Amanjot on fire
But with 22 required off 12, Amanjot smoked Kanika Ahuja for two sixes before the nerveless G. Kamalini, all of 16, brought MI its second win in three matches with a fiercely driven four off the penultimate ball.

Earlier, after RCB was asked to bat first, Perry blossomed even as those around her withered. Skipper Smriti Mandhana started superbly (26, 13b, 4x4, 1x6), pulling and cutting Shabnim Ismail and Sciver-Brunt in expert fashion.

But a miscued hoick in the third over off Shabnam ended her stay, and from 29 for one, RCB fell to 57 for four.

However, a fine 50-run partnership between Perry and Richa Ghosh (28, 25b, 3x4, 1x6) resurrected the RCB innings and the duo ensured the home side accumulated 105 runs from overs 10 to 20.

Perry was solid on the leg-side, planting her foot and smashing everything in sight. The gorgeous boundary over extra cover off Amelia Kerr that she executed to get to her half-century showed her all-round batting ability. But even her best couldn't save the day for RCB.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Smriti Mandhana c Yastika b Ismail 26 *(13b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Danni Wyatt-Hodge c Matthews b Sciver-Brunt 9 *(9b, 1x4)*, Ellyse Perry c Ismail b Amanjot 81 *(43b, 11x4, 2x6)*, Raghvi Bist c Kerr b Matthews 1 *(3b)*, Kanika Ahuja b Sanskriti 3 *(9b)*, Richa Ghosh b Amanjot 28 *(25b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Georgia Wareham c Sankriti b Amanjot 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Kim Garth (not out) 8 *(10b)*, Ekta Bisht (not out) 2 *(1b)*; Extras (w-2, lb-1): 3; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 167.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-29 (Smriti, 2.4 overs), 2-48 (Wyatt-Hodge, 4.5), 3-51 (Raghvi, 5.3), 4-57 (Kanika, 7.2), 5-107 (Richa, 13.4), 6-119 (Wareham, 15.4), 7-165 (Perry, 19.5).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Ismail 4-0-36-1, Sciver-Brunt 4-0-40-1, Matthews 4-0-37-1, Kerr 4-0-28-0, Sanskriti 1-0-3-1, Amanjot 3-0-22-3.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Yastika Bhatia lbw b Garth 8 *(8b, 2x4)*, Hayley Matthews lbw b Ekta 15 *(10b, 3x4)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt b Garth 42 *(21b, 9x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Richa b Wareham 50 *(38b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Amelia Kerr c Ekta b Wareham 2 *(6b)*, Amanjot Kaur (not out) 34 *(27b, 2x4, 2x6)*, S. Sajana lbw b Wareham 0 *(1b)*, G. Kamalini (not out) 11 *(8b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-8): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 19.5 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (Yastika, 1.3), 2-66 (Matthews, 5.6), 3-74 (Sciver-Brunt, 7.2), 4-82 (Kerr, 9.1), 5-144 (Harmanpreet, 17.2), 6-144 (Sajana, 17.3).

RCB BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-35-0, Garth 4-0-30-2, Wareham 4-1-21-3, Ekta 3.5-0-37-1, Joshitha 2-0-19-0, Kanika 2-0-28-0.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.
PoM: Amanjot.
Mumbai Indians won by four wickets with one ball to spare.
Saturday's match: Delhi Capitals vs UP Warriorz, 7.30 p.m.

Felt like a toddler learning how to walk, says Shami

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

One of the hardest challenges for a sportsperson is returning from a long injury layoff, especially in the later stages of one's career.

Even though advances in sports science have increased the career span of modern-day athletes, an injury at the wrong time can be hard to recover from.

In the Champions Trophy opener against Bangladesh, Mohammed Shami – almost one year after undergoing surgery on his right heel – showed he was nearly back to his best after scalping a five-wicket haul to set up a six-wicket win for the Men in Blue.

During the game, he also became the fastest Indian to 200 wickets (in terms of balls bowled).

Since the surgery, the 34-year-old also had to deal with a lingering knee problem that delayed his return to international cricket. Prior to his injury, Shami was operating at his peak and had a dream ODI World Cup in 2023, when he finished as the highest wicket-taker, taking 24 wickets from just seven games at an eye-popping strike rate of 12.20.

Shami. AFP

After Thursday's match, the speedster spoke about the challenges he faced during the 14 months he was away from the game.

"It is very difficult when you are injured, and you go from that form (that I had) in the World Cup because you have to repeat the same things; the same things pinch you again and again, you feel the pain 24 hours a day," said Shami.

In an interview with *ICC TV*, the seamer revealed he had doubts about ever playing again.

"For the first two months, I often doubted whether I could play again. An injury like this, followed by a 14-month break, can pull you down.

"After 60 days, when they asked me to put my feet on the ground, you won't believe me, but I have never been more scared to put my foot on the ground. It felt like I was starting over, like a toddler learning how to walk, and I was worried about any complications".

Need some work: Waugh says Kohli's weakness outside the off-stump can be rectified. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Don't write off Kohli'

Steve Waugh says Pakistan is capable of surprising India in the Champions Trophy

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Virat Kohli is not quite the unstoppable force he once was, but it is too early to write him off, former Australia captain Steve Waugh insisted. Criticism could, in fact, motivate Kohli to turn it around, Waugh added.

"I never write off great players. People said that Steve Smith was out of form, and as soon as you say that, they go out and score a hundred. If people write off someone like Kohli, it's probably the best thing they can do because it will motivate him to perform well," Waugh said in a virtual media interaction.

Laureus Academy Member Waugh attended the Laureus Sport for Good Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum, funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Kohli's recent Achilles heel - hanging the bat outside off-stump - can be rectified easily, Waugh added.

"The tendency to hang the bat outside off stump is something he could rectify pretty quickly. It comes down to concentration and focus. Maybe those are the areas that are down at the moment. Maybe he thinks too far ahead, or thinks about the consequences rather than playing it one ball at a time."

The 59-year-old stated that India is the favourite in the marquee ICC Champions Trophy clash against Pakistan on Sunday. An unpredictable Pakistan, however, cannot be taken for granted, Waugh said.

Hot and cold

"An India-Pakistan game is more than a cricket match. It's a huge event. Pakistan has been hot and cold over the last 12 months. They are capable of doing really good things, so you are never sure what Pakistan side is going to turn up. India is the favourite, but it would not surprise me either if Pakistan wins the game." With the immense popularity of T20s and the classic appeal of Tests, ODIs are bound to get the short end of the stick, Waugh opined.

"ODIs are now seen as a boring format, but every time we have a World Cup or a major tournament, people fall in love with ODIs again. These tournaments have to be important and have to mean something, rather than having just a couple of games here and there. But it is going to be increasingly hard in the future to fit all formats. The one format which will probably suffer a bit will be one-day cricket," Waugh said.

India is a powerful white-ball team: Ganguly

Y. B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Former captain Sourav Ganguly thinks the current Indian team is not only better than Pakistan but is also the favourite to win the ongoing Champions Trophy.

Ganguly, who played a lot against Pakistan, said the neighbouring country would need some special effort to beat India in their Group-A engagement on Sunday.

"India is a powerful white-ball team.In the last 25 years, India has lost only once to Pakistan in a world tournament. India is the favourite for this tournament. It won't be easy for Pakistan," said Ganguly, who was named the brand ambassador of construction chemical manufacturer Vura here on Friday.

According to Ganguly, India, after recording a comprehensive victory against Bangladesh in Dubai on Thursday, might not change its winning combination against Pakistan.

"Pakistan don't play spin very well. India has quality spinners in Axar (Patel), (Ravindra) Jadeja and Kuldeep (Yadav). I presume this Dubai pitch will (assist) turn a bit... India will go with this combination."

Spinners to rule

Ganguly predicted that pitches in Dubai would not be as batter-friendly as those in Pakistan.

"The spinners will have a lot of say. The ILT20 was just played in Dubai.

"The pitches have been used. I don't think we'll see 300 (plus) scores in Dubai."

Praising century maker Shubman Gill, Ganguly underlined that 'India is a pool of talent.'

BFC leapfrogs NEUFC to strengthen hold on ISL playoff spot

Sports Bureau

NorthEast United FC was handed a 2-0 defeat by Bengaluru FC in an Indian Super League clash at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Friday.

The visitor started strong, holding on to the ball and looking for gaps in the Highlanders' defence. In the third minute, Alberto Noguera found Ryan Williams in a central position with a slick pass and the Australian slotted it into the bottom left corner to put BFC in the lead.

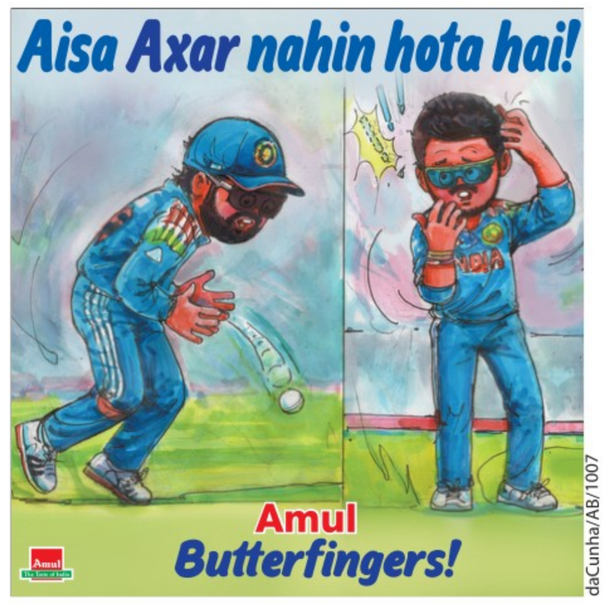
The home side did its best to gain a foothold in the contest, making 25 crosses compared to the Blues' 10. However, it was BFC which found the back of the net again, when Noguera pounced on a loose ball in the box to seal the three points for his team.

Noguera celebrates with Bheke.

BFC, despite having just 37.3% possession, was efficient when in possession, scoring twice from its four shots on target.

The win sees BFC move to the fourth spot in the table with 34 points from 21 matches, while NEUFC is fifth with 32 points, and having played a game more.

The result: NorthEast United FC 0 lost to Bengaluru FC 2 (Noguera 3, Williams 81).



daCunha/AB/1007

SNAPSHOTS

World No. 4 Harimoto heads field

World No. 4 Tomokazu Harimoto of Japan and Hina Hayata, the World No. 5 from Japan, headline the men's and women's singles fields in the WTT Star Contender table tennis tournament to be held in Chennai from March 25 to 30.
The Indians in the main draw will be Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar and in women, it will be Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, Yashaswini Ghorpade.
The top players:
Men: Tomokazu Harimoto (Japan, World ranked 4), Hugo Calderano (Brazil, 6), Jang Woojin (Korea, 12), Jonathan Groth (Denmark, 17), Omar Assar (Egypt, 18), Dimitrij Ovtcharov (Germany, 20), AN Jaehyun (Korea, 22), Cho Daeseong (Korea, 24) and Alvaro Robles (Spain, 29), Yukiya Uda (Japan, 30).
Women: Hina Hayata (Japan, 5),

Yuvraj.

Miwa Harimoto (Japan, 6), Satsuki Odo (Japan, 8), Shin Yubin (Korea, 19); Cheng I-Ching (Taipei, 12), Sofia Polcanova (Austria, 15), Adriana Diaz (Puerto Rico, 16), Miyuu Kihara (Japan, 17), Miyu Nagasaki (Japan, 24), Joo Cheonhui (Korea, 26).

Yuki and Dodig lose semifinals in Doha

Yuki Bhambri and Ivan Dodig of Croatia lost 7-6(3), 6-3 to Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool of Britain in the doubles semifinals of the $3,035,960 ATP tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, on Friday. Yuki and Dodig won 180 ATP points and $45,750.

Kabir and Khushi take home titles

Kabir Parmar beat Naman Borah in the boys' final of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament at the Gujarat University Tennis Centre on Friday. Khushi Kadian won the girls' title.

The results (finals):

Boys: Kabir Parmar bt Naman Borah 6-3, 6-1. **Doubles:** Heet Kandoriya & Smit Undre bt Sarode & Tanish Patil 2-6, 7-5, [10-6].

Girls: Khushi Kadian bt Salena Gahlot 6-4, 6-3. **Doubles:** Diya Ravikumar & P. Ramesh bt A. Tehlan & Mariya Patel 6-3, 6-3.

Yuvraj bags Gujarat Open crown

Yuvraj Sandhu unleashed a flawless seven-under 65 on the final day to bag the title in the ₹1 crore Gujarat Open golf tournament at the Glade One Golf Resort, Ahmedabad, on Friday. It was the second title in two weeks for the Chandigarh pro, following his triumph in the season opener in Kolkata. It was another cheque of ₹15,00,000 that put him on top of the Order of Merit.

The scores: 1. Yuvraj Sandhu (32, 34, 68, 65) 199; 2. Saptak Talwar (34, 34, 69, 67) 204; 3T. Arjun Prasad (34, 36, 65, 72), Kshitij Kaul (34, 36, 65, 72) 207; 5T. Honey Baisoya (34, 37, 68, 69), Rashid Khan (35, 35, 68, 70), Abhinav Lohan (34, 36, 68, 70) 208; 8T. Gaurav Pratap Singh (35, 34, 70, 70), Rohan Patil (36, 35, 67, 71) 209; 10T. Karandeep Kochhar (37, 34, 70, 69), N. Thangaraja (34, 37, 70, 69) 210.

Offside Trap blanks GRK Girls in women's A division

Offside Trap FA blanked GRK Girls FC in the KSFA 'A' division women's football league in Bengaluru on Friday. S. Praveena (35th minute), S. Judith (49th), Aadya Malik 55th) scored.

INBRIEF

Jeevan-Vijay duo downs Niki-Lock pair in semifinals

Top seeds Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth made the doubles final of the Pune Metropolitan $160,000 Maha Open Challenger tennis tournament, beating Niki Poonacha and Courtney Lock 7-6(5), 6-4.

Other results: Singles (quarterfinals): Brandon Holt (USA) bt Billy Harris (GBR) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Alexis Galarneau (Can) bt Valentin Vacherot (Mon) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(3); Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) bt Ugo Blanchet (Fra) 6-0, 6-2; Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) bt Ilia Simakin 6-1, 6-3.

Doubles (semifinals): Blake Bayldon & Matthew Romios (Aus) bt Jay Clarke (GBR) & Jurij Rodionov (Aut) 6-3, 3-6, [10-5].

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST-16 DRAW

Paris Saint-Germain vs. Liverpool; Club Brugge vs. Aston Villa; Real Madrid vs. Atletico Madrid; PSV Eindhoven vs. Arsenal; Feyenoord vs. Inter Milan; Bayern Munich vs. Bayer Leverkusen; Borussia Dortmund vs. Lille; Benfica vs. Barcelona.
First legs to be played March 4/5, second legs on March 11/12.

LIVE TELECAST

Champions Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.
Hockey: Pro League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 6 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: gxr.world, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
WPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

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